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May Day Demonstrations Reported Throughout Region

LD0105063894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] All last night, Ukrainian national television was broadcasting Easter services from churches of various religious confessions, while this morning the Socialist Party called on people to attend an officially sanctioned May Day rally and march to the Lenin monument to lay flowers.

At this moment there are three demonstrations in progress in Moscow. They are being organized by the Federation of Trade Unions, the Moscow Labor [Trudovaya Moskva] Movement, the Liberal Patriotic Party of Rebirth, and a bloc of communist parties.

Today, for the first of time in recent years, International Labor Day is being celebrated in Yerevan. The workforces of dozens of Yerevan's enterprises and institutions will turn out for a rally in the city.

An unsanctioned May Day rally is planned to be held on the central square of Bishkek by the Civic Council [Grazhdanskiy sovet]. This Kyrgyz public organization was set up two months ago under the aegis of the republic's legal rights movement to defend the rights of pensioners and the needy.

Aliyev Addresses CIS Meeting on Attacks

944K1123A Baku AZERBAYDZAN in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Text of the statement of Azerbaijan Republic President H.A. Aliyev at the meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State, in Moscow, 15 April 1994]

[Text] Extraordinary circumstances compel me to address you with the following statement.

On 10 April of this year, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia began a new large-scale offensive in the direction of Geranboyskiy and Terterskiy Rayons, and on 11 April, in the direction of Agderinskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Right now Azerbaijani units, repelling continuous attacks by the numerically superior units of the Republic of Armenia's armed forces, are conducting bloody defensive battles. A military contingent of about 3,000 troops has been transferred from the territory of Armenia into the zone of conflict, together with tens of units of armored vehicles and heavy artillery—including Grad systems—which are shelling populated centers of the aforementioned rayons of Azerbaijan. These villages have been ravaged, and there are numerous casualties among civilian population.

Thus, the Republic of Armenia, continuing its war of aggression on the territory of Azerbaijan, encroaches on the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic, threatening the very statehood of Azerbaijan.

By continuing its aggression, Armenia is blocking the process of peaceful settlement, in which Azerbaijan takes a most active part. By carrying out another offensive every time we are in the middle of or on the threshold of major mediating initiatives, the aggressor cynically defies the world community, which is undertaking—alas, unsuccessfully at this point—attempts to resolve this bloody conflict.

[Lines missing] a new stage of aggression by the Republic of Armenia, the purpose of which is to seize new Azerbaijani territories. Despite numerous declarations of a desire to resolve the conflict peacefully. By its latest offensive deep into the territory of a sovereign state—a CIS member—the Republic of Armenia demonstrates its true intentions, which are to put pressure on Azerbaijan and its leadership and block the peace process.

I want to particularly draw your attention to the fact that the Armenian armed forces' offensive began a day before the opening on 11 April of this year of a meeting of the CSCE's Minsk Group in Prague, with the participation, among others, of representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Escalation of aggression against Azerbaijan by the Republic of Armenia is taking place during the time of holding intensive negotiations within the framework of the Russian mediation initiative and at the time of the current meeting of CIS heads of states.

One has to admit that after the conference of CIS heads of States in Ashgabat in December 1993, when a meeting took place between Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan and myself, there have been no positive changes in the Republic of Armenia's policy regarding Azerbaijan Republic. Armenian armed forces continue to occupy more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory and to conduct ethnic cleansing; people are dying, and a million Azerbaijani refugees huddled in tent cities experience unbelievable deprivation and suffering.

I want to point out that Azerbaijan took a most active part in all mediating efforts of the world community, including that by international organizations and great powers. These efforts include, in addition to my negotiations with the president of Armenia, the 18 February 1994 meeting of ministers of defense of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Russian Federation; a visit to Azerbaijan and Armenia of the Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE's Minsk Group, in March 1994; the meeting of the speakers of the Azerbaijani and Armenian parliaments on 12 March of this year; negotiations in Baku and Moscow with V.N. Kazimirov, the special representative of the president of the Russian Federation; and the visit of a peacekeeping group of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in March of this year. However, all attempts on the part of Azerbaijan to find a mutually acceptable compromise solution have run into a coercive position by Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia torpedoes any constructive proposals by putting forward the terms it knows full well to be unacceptable. Their substance is that the Republic of Armenia, which has created a military beachhead on the territory of Azerbaijan, wants to trade occupied territories for independent state status for Nagornyy Karabakh, that is, to de facto dismember Azerbaijani Republic.

Azerbaijan's rightful position is to free all occupied territories and to restore its sovereignty; return refugees to places of their permanent residence and liquidate the consequences of Republic of Armenia's aggression. Azerbaijan does not want war and calls on Armenia to achieve peace on the basis of commonly accepted principles of mutual relations between sovereign states. Striving for civic peace and accord, the Azerbaijani Government is ready to guarantee the safety and civil rights of Armenian residents of the Nagornyy Karabakh region on the condition that they obey Azerbaijan's Constitution.

As you may remember, in Ashgabat Azerbaijan proposed to work out a system of bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at stabilization of the political situation in the CIS states and ensuring mutual recognition and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders of each CIS member state.

I am compelled to speak of this once again because life shows us that the indifferent attitude to the glaring fact of one member of the CIS—the Republic of Armenia—committing naked aggression against another CIS member—the Republic of Azerbaijan—practically brings to zero the prospects of forming a vital international organization, which we would like our Commonwealth to be.

I would like to urge you to discuss at this meeting the issue of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict for the purpose of adopting concrete decisions for removing the aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic and its consequences.

In this address to the heads of states, we once again urgently call for:

—issuing a political judgment on the Republic of Armenia's aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic;

—demand that the Republic of Armenia cease military operations against Azerbaijan Republic and immediately, unconditionally, and without reserve withdraw its armed forces from the territory of sovereign Azerbaijan;

—demand from the Republic of Armenia firm political guarantees for not resuming military operations;

—apply sanctions with respect to the CIS member—the Republic of Armenia—that is carrying out armed aggression against another CIS member.

Further delay and inaction hold the threat of far greater trouble for all CIS states.

CIS Heads Call for Karabakh 'Political' Settlement

944K1123B Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Text of the statement of the CIS Council of Heads of State on the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh and surrounding territories]

[Text] Taking into consideration the statements of heads of state of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia on the steps being undertaken by them with respect to cessation of military operations, the CIS Council of Heads of State acknowledges that the Nagornyy Karabakh conflict is causing irreparable losses to the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples and to the economy and ecology of a large region in the Transcaucasus, and that it affects vital interests of other CIS members and the Commonwealth as a whole.

The CIS Council of Heads of States supports the efforts of Commonwealth member states aimed at a lasting political settlement of the conflict, including persistent peacekeeping initiatives by the Russian Federation, and welcomes the mediating mission of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member countries.

The CIS Council of Heads of States reaffirms its desire to facilitate in every way a search for the only possible—compromise—solution. The main priority and imperative for the settlement is an immediate cease-fire, an end to all military operations and following that, its firm reinforcement. Without this, we cannot proceed to eliminate the consequences of the tragic conflict.

The CIS Council of Heads of States calls on the international community, the CSCE, and the United Nations to support the steps being undertaken by the CIS in the interests of settling the conflict.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Apr

LD3004082894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0513 GMT 30 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 30 April TASS— One of the topics of the Moscow press on Saturday is celebration of the May Day in Moscow. "By all indications, organisers of oppositional manifestations are well aware that something more formidable than water hose can be used against demonstrators, and without any delay and hesitation," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. Although the mayor of Moscow talks about "contact-free" methods of dispersing manifestations, Deputy Chief of Agency of

Moscow Militia Gennadiy Feklichev says that public order in Moscow on the May Day will be maintained by militia. A few days ago, soldiers of interior troops were trained in methods of dispersing demonstrations. Armoured equipment was present during the training.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries a statement by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who warns: "We are ready to cope with any changes of the situation in the capital. Sufficient measures will be taken and force used against those who want to clowd our holyday and violate law."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Patriarch Alexey the Second of Moscow and all Russia. He said, specifically: "I believe that those who call us to the barricades, to separate tanks and the parliament house think in their mundane ways."

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA frontpages an item in which it is alleged that "the Interior Ministry recommended, after conversations with personnel, to select no less than 250 men to be sent, plain-clothed, to the site of mass actions in the Kaluzhskaya square. The newspaper notes that the Interior Ministry's directive suggests that these persons be inculcated among demonstrators to provoke disturbances. The newspaper asserts that sergeants will be paid for these services $250 and more, and officers even as much as $500.

A number of newspapers carry interviews with Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions. In an interview granted to TRUD he said that "the problem of peace in society equally concerns all the population of the country. Our state pays too dearly for strife on the political Olympus. Therefore, trade unions support the president's idea to press for overcoming the crisis in all areas in Russia on a basis of civic accord." In an interview with RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA Shmakov touched upon the socio-economic situation in work collectives. He stressed that "the situation is desperate". Plants are stopped. Even such giants as the Likhachev auto works, the Volga auto works and the Gorkiy car factory may face this calamity." In an interview to PRAVDA Shmakov stated that trade unions at present are not rigidly oriented at any one party. "There is no party as yet that would fully correspond to trade union tasks. But we support parties and movements whose programmes contain ideas similar to ours."

Regarding the meeting of the Latvian and Russian presidents planned for today, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "coordinations are being made in the hours that remain to go before the presidential meeting. 'Telephone diplomacy' on which Russia and Latvia have been heavily relying in the recent days is a way to resolve matters of principle but not particulars which, in the long run, determine the climate of bilateral relations."

The same newspaper carries an interview with Anatoliy Kuntsevich, former chairman of the committee on conventional problems of chemical and biological weapons at the Russian president. He said "it is unrealistic to expect that any subject of the Federation would voluntarily accept chemical ammunition for destruction in their territory. Hardly any subject of the Federation will so much as permit the transportation of chemical ammunition over their territory. Therefore a system for weapons elimination in areas of their storage should be created. National unity is essential. All other subjects of the Federation should not remain indifferent observers as the timeframe for safe storage of chemical weapons is running out."

The newspaper SEGODNYA touches upon the case of U.S. spy Ames. In this connection the newspaper writes that the possibility of the exchange of arrested agents of the U.S. and Russia should not be ruled out. Some experts say that potential candidatures for bargaining are former Colonel of the main intelligence agency Baranov and former Major of the first main agency of the KGB, now the External Intelligence Service, Motorin.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with chief of the Russian Armed Services Colonel-General Anatoliy Sitnov. He notes that if the defence budget is endorsed in its present form the Defence Ministry, repaying the debt for 1993 and for deliveries in 1994, will have to spend whatever funds are left on the ensurance of nuclear safety, preservation of ships and vessels of the navy now being built or repared and to finance work for maintenance of armements and military equipment. The agreements on the supply of all other armaments and military equipment commissioned by the state (over 80 per cent) will have to be disolved, with catastrophic consequences.

The newspaper NEVSKOYE VREMYA reports that the unfavourable ecological situation in the Gulf of Finland will be the main cause of the spread of algae in the gulf in summer. The situation is aggravated by the unusually large influx to the Baltic Sea of saline waters from the north Atlantic and the lack of oxygen in benthic layers.

Yeltsin, Latvia's Ulmanis Meet, Sign Accords 30 Apr

LD2904153794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Yeltsin's press service says that Boris Yeltsin and Guntis Ulmanis will meet at tentatively 1100, Moscow time, on Saturday.

The two national leaders will be expected to sign a number of documents.

In Friday's interview with INTERFAX, chief Sergey Zotov of the Russian delegation to the negotiations with Latvia said that in Moscow Ulmanis would be expected to sign the whole package of military agreements (a basic agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia, an agreement on the 5.5-year lease of the Skrunda radar station, an agreement on the social protection of the withdrawing Russian servicemen, and an agreement on the social protection of the retired Russian servicemen and their families).

According to Zotov, the Russian and Latvian Government delegations closed around of negotiations in Jurmala, Thursday [28 April]. On Latvian request they drew up an additional protocol to the agreement on the social protection of the retired Russian servicemen and their families.

The protocol provided for the creation of special funds, endowments and organizations for the solution of problems that would arise in the course of the servicemen's voluntary repatriation. Foreign sources, too, would be allowed to finance the repatriation.

The protocol eliminated what remained of the Latvian objections to the whole package of bilateral agreements. So, Zotov said, the road was clear for Ulmanis' visit to Moscow.

Latvian President Arrives

LD3004080994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow 30 April TASS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis arrived in Moscow today to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The visit of the Latvian president has materialised due to the agreement reached at the Russo-Latvian negotiations to coordinate an additional protocol to the earlier initialled document—on social protection for military pensioners living in Latvia. The package of bilateral agreements will be discussed at negotiations of the two presidents in the Kremlin.

The visit of Guntis Ulmanis to Moscow planned for an earlier timeframe was put off because of the stance of the Latvian Sejm. Deputies did not want the package of agreements to include the above-mentioned document on social guarantees for retired military. The Russian side insisted on the discussion of all the four agreements, including Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia, the status of the radar in Skrunda, social protection for the military during the troop withdrawal and guarantees for military pensioners. President Yeltsin succeeded in clearing the obstacle to the summit.

Yeltsin, Ulmanis Begin Negotiations

LD3004085794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova, Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow 30 April TASS—One-on-one negotiations between Boris Yeltsin and Latvian President guntis Ulmanis began in the Green Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. Ulmanis arrived for an official visit to Russia today.

Welcoming the distinquished Latvian guest Yeltsin noted that "this is the first official visit of a Latvian president to Russia." The Russian president said that "we have at last approached the landmark where we can reach a number of treaties and agreements, if not agree of all problems."

After the meeting in a narrow circle, the Russo-Latvian negotiations will continue in an enlarged composition. Taking part in the negotiations from the Russian side are Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and other officials.

The visit of the Baltic president has become a reality due to an arrangement reached at the bilateral negotiations to coordinate an additional protocol to the initialled document on social protection for Russian military pensioners living in Latvia, Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the bilateral talks, told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin Satisfied With Talks

LD3004100694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0858 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—Addressing the talks between the official delegations of the two countries, Boris Yeltsin described as "historic" the first official visit by the Latvian president to Russia.

Yeltsin expressed "great satisfaction" with the fact that the first official visit by the Latvian president to Russia had taken place and a large package of documents had been prepared that touches upon the moral and material interests of Russia and Latvia.

I would like our relations to cover an even larger spectrum, Yeltsin said. He expressed hope that the visit would create great opportunities for the development of cooperation between the two countries.

Yeltsin, Ulmanis Sign Treaty

LD3004095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0911 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—The Russian Armed Forces are to be withdrawn from the territory of the Latvian Republic by 31 August 1994. This was reflected in the Treaty between Russia and Latvia signed by the presidents of Russia and Latvia in the Kremlin today.

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent after the signing ceremony in the Vladimir Hall of the Kremlin, Yeltsin said that a package consisting of five documents had been signed. They had been prepared, he said, with full agreement by both sides.

Noting that the documents mainly connected with the withdrawal of troops and the social protection of servicemen and retired servicemen were signed in the Kremlin today, Yeltsin said a package of bilateral economic agreements would be drawn up and signed during a visit to Latvia by the head of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Yelstin Comments

LD3004123794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1027 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has declared in his interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent after the ceremony in which a package of bilateral documents were signed: "The Russian-Latvian documents signed today in the Kremlin have been elaborated with the full consent by the both sides."

The head of the Russian state said that "as a whole, five documents have been signed: the Treaty and four agreements in which, in particular, the protection of servicemen was determined and the question of pensioners and former servicemen was solved."

Boris Yeltsin paid special attention to the treaty signed by him and Guntis Ulmanis, which ensured the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Latvia. He said that "the final date of the withdrawal was determined to be 31 August." In addition he said that "the Russian side will try to do this as soon as possible because we want children of the servicemen to go to school in Russia already this 1 September."

The president also said that during the negotiations the delegations of the both countries "worked on about 10 economic documents as well." In this connection he underlined that "the presidents of the two countries have reached an agreement that the questions on free trade, the regime of the most favored nations on a mutual and equal basis, taxation, tariffs, and duties will be prepared by a special group and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will visit Riga where the signing of these documents will take place."

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis answered a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent and said that in one of the documents signed today "we were talking about the regime of the most favored nations between the two countries." He believes that "this is a very valuable achievement." He said that entrepreneurs of the both countries can now breathe freely because, speaking frankly, the politics "minded its own business, and the economy suffered from that."

Latvia's Ulmanis Comments

LD3004145494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1220 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Today, at the Russian Foreign Ministry Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis held a news conference. A certain amount of tension exists in relations between Russia and Latvia, and it is connected first and foremost with the situation of the Russian-speaking population in this Baltic Republic, and also with the presence of Russian servicemen there. It seems that these issues were at the focus of attention of those taking part in the news conference. However, let us listen to Ulmanis himself. Trusting the assembled journalists' promises not to criticize him for his incorrect use of Russian, the president summed up the results of his visit:

[Begin Ulmanis recording] We came here with the firm intention of expressing our attitude to those issues that are presently hampering the existence of normal, good-neighborly and, I would say, friendly relations between our two neighboring countries. The issues in question are the withdrawal of troops, the elimination of the Skrunda radar station, and matters relating to economic relations. I must straightaway acknowledge that I met with full mutual understanding on President Yeltsin's part. As a result, one treaty, three agreements, and one protocol have been signed.

The documents boil down essentially to the total and unconditional withdrawal of Russia's troops before 31 August 1994. In the course of talks with the defense minister it was stated that the troops might be withdrawn considerably earlier. A treaty was signed on the status of the Skrunda radar station. It will have the status of a military establishment under civilian control, and cannot have the status of a military base. An agreement was also signed on social guarantees for all the people affected by this process. In the main, this concerns the military pensioners and their future destiny. We view this package of documents as a unified whole and as a regrettable necessity, with which history has presented us. It is viewed as a unified package of documents, which pursues the single goal of normalizing relations between the two states.

Two things recently have been very important for us: We have received from the Russian side information on the numbers of military pensioners. As president, I need always to know this figure by heart. There are 22,320 of these people, and the social guarantees apply to them. Secondly, we are together with the Russian side creating a repatriation fund, which will help in a civilized way those people so wishing to leave Latvia.

I am left deeply impressed by all that has happened today, since history has never before known a day when the national anthem of a free Latvia has been played in a free Russia. I should very much like this day to have broken the ice of distrust and the hostility—we shall not hide it—which has existed both in Russia and in Latvia, because our task and our results will only be positively achieved when the population of Latvia and the population of Russia begin thinking in the way that we now desire. [end recording]

Ulmanis Gives News Conference

LD3004140494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—One would like to hope that today's meeting will break the ice of suspicion and hostility, which still exists in relations between Russia and Latvia, stated Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis at a news conference which took place after his talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Evaluating the package of documents signed in the course of the talks, he said that he views them "as a unified whole and as a regrettable necessity with which history has presented us. There are probably some mistakes and contradictions in these documents, but we view them as a single package which has only one aim—to normalize relations between the two states," Ulmanis stressed. Having expressed the hope that the parliaments of the both countries will ratify the documents signed in Moscow, the Latvian president has refrained from speculations on how soon this might happen.

Guntis Ulmanis stressed that "feeling responsibility for the future of these two neighboring states, he reached full mutual understanding" with the Russian president on all the issues discussed. [punctuation as received]

In the view of Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, "the most significant result of the talks was the accord on the introduction of most favored nation status in the relations between Russia and Latvia on 1 June." He stressed that a treaty on economic cooperation and trade is already practically ready, enabling the adopted decisions to be implemented in such a short time. Birkavs expressed hope that the visit by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, during which documents on economic cooperation between the two countries are expected to be signed, will take place in the second half of May.

Yeltsin Apologizes to Latvia for Stalinist Actions

LD3004161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Addressing journalists after the signing of Russian-Latvian documents in the Kremlin on Saturday, President Yeltsin apologized to the Latvians for anti-Latvian actions by Stalin's totalitarian regime.

"We declare that again. We condemn those actions against independent Latvia and its people," Yeltsin stressed.

Speaking in reply, Latvia's President Guntis Ulmanis voiced hope that Yeltsin's statement would help many Latvians to get over the prejudices piled up over the past decades in relations with Russia.

Asked by an INTERFAX correspondent about the outcome of bilateral talks, Yeltsin revealed that along with preparation for the signing ceremony he and Ulmanis had drawn up guidelines for economic accords with the view to endorse them. According to Yeltsin, there are 10 such drafts, including documents on free trade, on the most favoured status in trade, and on easy-term taxation.

In Yeltsin's words, a mixed working group will elaborate on these documents so that Russia's Premier Victor Chernomyrdin could sign them during a visit to Riga. However, it is too early to say when precisely he will go there, Yeltsin said.

Condemns Stalinist Repressions

LD3004123194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1113 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova, Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—Russia once again declares that it condemns the Stalinist repressions against independent Latvia, Boris Yeltsin said in the Kremlin today after the signing of a package of Russian-Latvian documents.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis thanked Boris Yeltsin for this gesture. For the inhabitants of Latvia these are very generous and fine words, which will help us to come to terms with many psychological contradictions that have been created during these decades, he said.

Yeltsin: Russia Not Pursuing Military Aims in Estonia

LD3004122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova, Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—Russia is not pursuing any military aims or interests in Estonia, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in the Kremlin today while answering journalists' questions after the signing of a package of Russian-Latvian agreements.

Russia intends to withdraw all troops from Estonia, but we want this to be done on a legal basis, as is already taking place in Russia's mutual relations with Lithuania and Latvia, Yeltsin stressed. In connection with this, he recalled that Russia was strictly observing the accords reached in Germany, and that Russian soldiers would leave this country by the end of the year.

If the Estonian side shows goodwill, it will have full consent from ours, Yeltsin said in conclusion.

Latvian President Ends Visit to Moscow, Leaves for Riga

LD3004185194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English GMT 1807 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow 30 April TASS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis ended his visit to Moscow and left for Riga late on Saturday.

During the visit Ulmanis and President Boris Yeltsin signed an agreement to withdraw Russian troops from Latvia by 31 August 1994 and a number of agreements concerning the status of Russian servicemen in Latvia, members of their families and military pensioners.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS after the talks Yeltsin said that "Russian-Latvian documents signed today in the Kremlin were drawn up with full consent of both sides."

Ulmanis said the reached agreements aim at normalising relations between the two countries. He stressed he and Yeltsin reached "full understanding" on all issues included in the agenda of the talks.

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs said that the agreement on economic cooperation and trade between Russia and Latvia is also practically ready and will facilitate the soonest possible implementation of the reached accords. Birkavs expressed the confidence that the agreement can be signed during Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's upcoming visit to Latvia due to take place in the second half of May.

Chernomydin To Visit Latvia To Sign Economic Agreements

LD3004124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova, Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—An accord has been reached between the Russian and Latvian presidents that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is to visit Riga, where a package of bilateral economic agreements will be signed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today after the signing of Russian-Latvian agreements.

In his words, the bloc of economic documents comprises about 10 agreements. They will allow the solution of questions of free trade, most-favored-nation status, taxation, tariffs and duties, as well as other topical problems concerning the development of bilateral relations.

Russian Forces To Leave Latvia by 31 Aug

LD3004085294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0801 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—The Russian Armed Forces are to be withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Latvia by 31 August 1994. ITAR-TASS correspondents learned this during the course of talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis.

Russia and Latvia will sign a treaty on conditions, deadlines, and the procedure for the complete withdrawal of the Russian Armed Forces from the territory of the Latvian Republic and their legal situation for the period of the withdrawal. The complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces includes all members of the Russian Armed Forces, members of their families and personal estate.

An integral part of the present treaty will also be an agreement on the status of the Skrunda radar station for the period of its functioning and dismantlement.

Agreements will be signed between the two countries on matters of social protection for military servicemen and members of their families temporarily resident on the territory of the Latvian Republic until their complete withdrawal, as well as matters of social protection for military pensioners and their families living on the territory of the Latvian Republic.

Kozyrev Meets With South Korean Defense Minister

LD2904131294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow 29 April TASS—Russian-South Korean relations are definitely on the rise, declared Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at a meeting with South Korean Defence Minister Yi Pyong-tae, who is in Moscow on an official visit.

"I am glad that the military aspect is being given due attention in our relations. Now, we are not only not looking at each other through target-sights, but are ready to cooperate in creating a joint security system among states friendly to us," Kozyrev said.

During their meeting, the two ministers are expected to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula, other international problems, and their bilateral relations.

Kozyrev, Ireland's Spring Hold News Conference

LD2904135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1225 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Oleynyk]

[Text] Moscow 29 April TASS— Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and visiting Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, signed an intergovernment agreement on the prevention of double taxation on Friday.

During a news conference the Russian foreign minister said that a declaration on principles of relations between Russia and Ireland signed in Dublin last October was not merely an expression of their good intentions, but it was an important starting point for concrete work. Kozyrev pointed out the successful development of Russo-Irish ties at the level of concrete business-projects. "We have created a system of multi-stage political consultations on problems of the European and world politics," Kozyrev said, adding that he was grateful to Ireland for its assistance in finalizing an agreement on full- scale cooperation with the European Union.

Both Russian and Irish foreign ministers unanimously approved the level reached in the relations between the two countries, describing it as a very good and even excellent level and expressed confidence that bilateral relations would successfully develop.

Discusses Bosnia With Irish Foreign Minister

LD2904110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has again called for the earliest possible meeting on Bosnia with the participation of Russia, the United States, the European Union [EU], and the United Nations. Such a meeting "would help to consolidate the approaches" of the interested sides, he said at a news conference following talks here with Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister. A. Kozyrev stressed the role of the EU in settling the Bosnian conflict, which he described as "a key factor."

As a representative of an EU member country, the Irish minister supported the proposal to urgently sit down at the negotiating table. "Once we get down to directly discussing the problem it won't be so difficult to reach a common international position," D. Spring noted, replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question on the closeness of the approaches of Russia and the EU to this regional conflict.

Kozyrev Seeks Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Bosnia

LD2904125794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev hopes that next week the foreign policy chiefs of the United States and the countries of the European Union and himself, as well as representatives of the United Nations, will meet to coordinate plans for a Bosnian settlement.

Upon arrival in Moscow from Bonn, Thursday [28 April], Kozyrev told an INTERFAX reporter that a foreign ministers conference on Bosnia stood a good chance and he would work to have it take place even though problems remained. What counted most, he said, was the decision to go beyond NATO's plan for military action. Kozyrev suggested that NATO's moves be seen as a link in the chain that started with the United Nations' call for action and would lead to a Security Council discussion of the Bosnian problem.

Thursday evening, according to Kozyrev, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he intended to hold a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart. Let us wait and see what Secretary Christopher has to say, said Kozyrev.

Whether a foreign ministers conference on Bosnia would approve a provisional formula for a settlement depended, in Kozyrev's view, on moves by the ministers' contact group. Moscow refused to rely exclusively on the contact group, he said.

Kozyrev's deputy and President Yeltsin's special emissary for Bosnia Vitaliy Churkin has left Moscow for Oslo where he is to meet Friday with international mediators David Owen and Thurwald Stoltenberg. Kozyrev said Churkin's meeting with the international mediators opened an additional channel for work on a Bosnian conference.

The ministers were also working on the conference, so efforts were being made, Kozyrev pointed out, in three directions and although he could not be 100-percent sure, he was reasonably confident the conference would take place next week. The ministers could meet, as usual, Kozyrev said, in Geneva.

In the meantime, a Western source told INTERFAX the ministers would most likely meet in Finland or some other country of northern Europe and that they had already agreed to meet on next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Kozyrev Cited on Bosnian Settlement, Possible Summit

MK3004094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov under the "Yugocrisis" rubric: "Moscow Will Not Protect Barbarity out of Self-Respect. Andrey Kozyrev is True to Russian Tsar Precepts"]

[Text] A ministerial meeting on the Bosnian conflict settlement may take place late next week. This was announced by Andrey Kozyrev on returning from Geneva and Bonn where he talked with Warren Christopher, Alain Juppe, and Klaus Kinkel. The conflicting sides are not to take part in the talks. According to the minister, it is important now to hammer out a "consolidated approach to the problem," something to be taken up by representatives of the United Nations, the EC, Russia, the United States, Great Britain, and France. Kozyrev voiced satisfaction that the Western partners "do not become locked into forcible solutions." He believes that the meeting of six ministers may become a "major stage" in the preparation of a summit in the same format.

Since the talks with Christopher had left a somewhat painful aftertaste, your SEGODNYA correspondent thought it fitting to ask if a Bosnian settlement might become victim to the Atlantic unity Europeans treasure so much. Kozyrev replied that Russia also treasures partnership with the United States, but this only favors the search for a shared conception.

Reports from Gorazde, where General Rose stated that the Muslim side had deluded the world community as to the number of victims and extent of destruction in the city, lent Kozyrev's trip some poignancy. Kozyrev said to this that the Muslims would of course be doing all they can to provoke air strikes against their enemy. In his view, the important thing is not to reply to provocations, but that the Serbs' reply was "absolutely inadequate" to the situation.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent asked the minister if he thought he had really been too carried away with political infighting, as some newspapers believe. Kozyrev answered: "We would have been good-for-nothing politicians and good-for-nothing democrats had we not paid attention to public opinion." The matter is, the minister went on to say, precisely which amendments to make, and with whom to compromise. "Some criticize us for having sold ourselves to the Bolsheviks, others for having sold ourselves to the Americans. This is normal, this keeps us on the ball," Kozyrev said. He underlined that thanks to Moscow's vigorous actions, the NATO plan was cut back "50 or so percent." An alternative for Russia would have been a categorical "no" with no regard for the situation whatever. In the minister's view, this is "extremism toward the other side."

Kozyrev thinks that all the talk about Russia's being robbed, that it has once again been passed over and denied its fair share, is nothing but a symptom of an inferiority complex. It is an inferiority complex that boosted the political career of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. "It is on this crest," he underlined, "that dictatorial regimes are made. As for democracy, this means self-respect. It is out of self-respect that we cannot protect barbarity." He recalled in this connection that it was none other than the Russian tsar who first had the idea for the convention banning uncivilized methods of warfare—this tradition should be maintained.

In Kozyrev's words, one should not think that every word of Moscow is going to be taken as an eye-opener. "You cannot say the men in Moscow know precisely what to do. But then they do not know it in Washington either," the minister concluded.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Meet in Cairo 4 May

LD0105124094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 1 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow 1 May—The Russian foreign minister and the American secretary of state intend to meet on May fourth in Cairo, where they are due to arrive as co-sponsors at the signing ceremony of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO on Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher set up their meeting during a telephone conversation on Sunday. The Russian Foreign Ministry press department reported that the conversation was held upon the initiative of the American diplomat.

State Duma Delegation Urges Lifting Sanctions Against Serbs

LD2904154394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow 29 April TASS—"Obvious violation of the principle of equal responsibility in respect of the participants in Bosnian and Serb-Croatian conflicts leads to their exacerbation and hampers the beginning of serious peace talks."

Such was the conclusion made by an official delegation of Russian lawmakers from the State Duma (Russian parliament's lower house) on the results of their visit to the union Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The delegation prepared a communique on preliminary results of the visit, which was highlighted at a news conference on Friday [29 April].

The lawmakers visited former Yugoslavia on 21-27 April with a view to working out proposals on settling the crisis. The delegation brought together representatives of all the State Duma factions. They visited Belgrade, Pale, Sarajevo (including its Moslem part), Vukovar, and Zagreb.

According to the communique, Russia "should make concerted efforts through the UN framework to cancel gradually sanctions against the union Republic of Yugoslavia, which are a serious manifestation of world community's unbalanced approach to the conflicting parties."

The lawmakers expressed particular concern about "actual information warfare against Serbs unleashed by the mass media."

Most of the members of the delegation believe that the Russian Foreign Ministry made mistakes in recognizing the unitary state of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in supporting unilateral sanctions adopted by UN against the union Republic of Yugoslavia.

According to Deputy Konstantin Zatulin, who represented the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, the delegates derived an impression from talking with UN representatives that the latter "are under tremendous pressure from NATO officers, who itch to resort to force in former Yugoslavia."

The delegates will present their conclusions at a plenary session of the State Duma scheduled for 11 May.

Duma Deputies Complete Observer Mission in RSA Elections

LD2904195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1941 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Korochantsev and Yuriy Pichugin]

[Text] Pretoria 29 April TASS—A mission of Russian State Duma deputies in South Africa, where they observed the universal non-racial elections, has been completed.

Before leaving for Russia on Friday deputy group head A. Chilingarov told ITAR-TASS the voting was a historic stage in the life of South Africa divided in the recent past by racial barriers.

"We have visited many areas of residence of white and black communities and talked to representatives of various political parties, officials and average voters," he said. "We were most impressed by activeness of the population, enthusiasm of Africans who have been given the right to vote for the first time, and the atmosphere of friendliness in meters-long lines to the polling stations."

In his opinion, some drawbacks in the elections were caused by the absence of registration lists, which resulted in a sharp shortage of ballot sheets. This may give a reason for doubts in case of any disputes.

The Russian observer mission included V. Sheynis, G. Seleznev and I. Novitskaya. In their opinion, the South African elections signify a transition from confrontation to cooperation and show the will of representatives of all races and political convictions to national reconciliation and solution of disputable issues exclusively by peaceful civilized methods.

The parliament members noted genuine interest of South Africans in Russia and their striving to develop fruitful and friendly relations with it.

Peacekeepers Airlifted to Yugoslavia as Part of Rotation

LD2904152894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] A further 227 Russian peacekeepers complete with satellite communication equipment has been airlifted aboard two airforce transport planes from a military airport in Ryazan to ex-Yugoslavia, military officials told Interfax in Moscow. The operation is part of the rotation of the Russian contingent of the United Nations Protection Force there.

As many as 600 servicemen of the 1,500-strong Russian peacekeeping force deployed in the former Yugoslavia are to be replaced in April.

It is now known that many of the peacekeepers who served a term of six months and earned $6,000 have bought cars and will be travelling home by road.

Grachev on New Proposal for Asian-Pacific Security

LD2904135294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow 29 April TASS—In the talks being held between South Korean Defence Minister Yi Pyong-tae and various Russian officials, the Russian side has issued a new proposal concerning the creation of a collective security system in the Asian-Pacific region. Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev spoke to reporters after meeting with his South Korean colleague, saying that the proposal would be examined in Seoul. He noted that a special group of experts might be formed in the near future to work out a conceptual framework of security in the region.

The two defence ministers also discussed problems concerning North Korea. Grachev expressed Russia's worry over North Korea's nuclear programme, saying that it would be best if the Republic continued to adhere to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. He reported that the two sides discussed various ways of putting pressure on North Korea so that it did not abandon the treaty, in order to avoid creating additional security problems for the Korean peninsula and other areas as well.

In November 1992, President Boris Yeltsin travelled to Seoul, where he signed an agreement on principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of South Korea. This document has determined the further development of their bilateral relations, Grachev pointed out.

During the current negotiations, the two sides agreed on the necessity of continuing close military cooperation between Russia and South Korea on a higher level, announced Yi Pyong-tae. He said that the talks had revealed a common determination to not permit a worsening of the situation on the Korean peninsula or in North-east Asia as a whole.

The danger in this direction comes from North Korea's position on the nuclear question, he declared. "We believe that North Korea should adhere to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and become a full and responsible member of the international community," the South Korean defence minister stated.

The military ties between Russia and South Korea will serve as confidence- and security-building measures both between the two countries and on the Korean peninsula, stressed Yi Pyong-tae. If the security of the Korean peninsula is ensured, that will contribute to the security of the whole world, he declared.

Foreign Ministry on Absence of Karabakh Cease-Fire

LD2904131994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have been awaiting information from Nagorno-Karabakh. It had been thought that the agreement on a cease-fire would come into force. However, according to news agency reports, last night was not a quiet one. Today the Russian Foreign Ministry sent the following explanation. It says, and I quote: It proved impossible to draft the agreement on a cease-fire from midnight last night, although generally positive, but differing replies have been received from Baku and Stepanakert. The response from Nagorno-Karabakh, the Foreign Ministry says, does not accord with Russia's latest specific proposal. Russia is, however, continuing its efforts to bring the positions closer together.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on North Korean Logger Issue

SK2904011994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 29 April (YONHAP)—The Russian Government said Thursday [28 April] that any foreigners staying in Russia "legally" are free to leave the country, indicating Moscow has no intention of tuning in to Seoul's bid for an early resettlement in South Korea of North Koreans who have escaped from Siberian logging camps.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin said at a routine news briefing, "Russia will not prevent foreigners from leaving for any country if they did not commit particular criminal offenses, are not on a police wanted list and possess legal immigration documents. In such cases, we do not have to discuss with their countries of origin (on allowing them to leave Russia for any destination)."

Karasin's remarks were taken by diplomats here as an explicit expression of Moscow's intention to have North Korean loggers, most of whom have no passport or travel documents, apply for a permit to stay in Russia before trying to fly to Seoul.

Karasin also said it is not within the Russian Government's authority to issue visas or departure permits to foreigners wishing to leave the country.

Moscow was astonished by the recent media fuss in South Korea about the North Korean escapees, said the spokesman, who feared any distortion of Russia's position on the matter could damage its relations with third countries.

The Russian Government has yet to receive any applications from North Korean loggers seeking help to go to Seoul, Karasin said.

The South Korean Embassy here also said no North Koreans have contacted it since Seoul announced 15 April that it would accept all willing North Korean loggers. At the time, the Seoul Government revealed around 100 North Korean loggers had contacted Seoul missions in Russia seeking refuge in South Korea.

Intelligence Spokeswoman Says Ames Sentence 'Too Harsh'

LD2904131494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow 29 April TASS—The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service believes that a life sentence which ex-CIA officer Aldrich Ames got for spying for the USSR and Russia is a very severe punishment.

"No matter for who Ames worked, we believe the punishment to be too harsh," Tatyana Samolis, spokeswoman of the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, told TASS on Friday.

"I believe that after the end of the 'Cold War' and with the general warming of the world political climate, as well as from purely humane considerations, he should not have been sentenced for life," Samolis said.

She added that most of her colleagues regard the ballyhoo around the so-called "major spy case in the history of the United States" as hypocrisy.

Addressing Russian intelligence officers on Wednesday, President Boris Yeltsin said that the "true reasons of this anti-Russian (Ames) affair have a purely political tint" and added that the United States is "mounting efforts to recruit spies in Russia."

Churkin, Norwegian Foreign Minister Discuss Bosnia

LD2904111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1022 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Oslo, 29 Apr— Ways of settling the Bosnian crisis were discussed here today during a meeting between Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy and deputy foreign minister, and Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal.

Vitaliy Churkin, who arrived in Oslo on Thursday evening, will also have talks here today with Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, the co-chairmen of the coordinating committee of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Churkin Holds News Conference

LD2904150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1353 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Oslo, 29 Apr—Consultations held here today were devoted to a discussion of the initiative put forward the other day by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to hold a meeting of the heads of the foreign policy departments of the United States, Russia, and other "key countries" in order to work out ways of settling the crisis in Bosnia. They were attended by Deputy foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy, and Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, the cochairmen of the coordinating committee of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia.

At a news conference on the results of the consultations, it was stated that the forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, and other "key countries" was intended to coordinate the efforts of the world community to end the war in Bosnia. The parties to the Bosnian conflict will not be invited to the meeting.

Further on Churkin News Conference

LD2904201194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1939 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Oslo 29 April TASS—Special representative of the Russian president Vitaliy Churkin met on Friday with Co-Chairmen of the Coordinating Committee of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen to discuss the initiative recently proposed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev that the heads of the foreign ministries of Russia, the U.S. and other "key countries" meet and work out a way to put an end to the crisis in Bosnia.

The meeting between the foreign ministers of Russia, the U.S., and the other "key countries" is designed to coordinate the efforts of the world community to end the war in Bosnia, the diplomats announced at the press conference held after they approved the Russian initiative. The sides involved in the Bosnian conflict will not be invited to the conference.

The date and place of the meeting between the foreign ministers have not been specified as yet, Churkin told ITAR-TASS.

According to him, Russia, the USA and "leading European countries" will participate in the meeting, which will be "a special forum" independent of the international conference on Former Yugoslavia. Participants in the meeting will "make serious decisions," he said.

Participants in a news conference devoted to the results of trilateral consultations said on Friday that the forthcoming meeting between the foreign ministers was to take place "as soon as possible" and to work out "a coordinated approach, a general strategy of international community in respect of settling crisis in Bosnia."

According to them, the foreign ministers will consider situation in Gorazde and a mechanism of "settling crisis in Bosnia as a whole." The warring parties in Bosnian conflict will not be invited to the meeting.

Participants in the news conference emphasized that after the situation in Gorazde was relatively normalized, there was a good chance that the belligerents would agree to a ceasefire in Bosnia.

They also described criticism levelled at allegedly ineffective efforts of Stoltenberg and Owen as groundless.

Peace-making process is actually replete with disappointments and failures, but it does not mean that no effort is being made, Stoltenberg said.

The blame for constant foiling peace-making efforts rests not with the international community, but with the belligerents who fail to come to terms, Churkin said in this connection.

We cannot wait for a showdown in the war in Bosnia any longer, Owen emphasized. Emergency measures are needed now to stop the war, because violence in Bosnia grows with each passing day, ethnic cleansing continues. Procrastination on the part of the international community results in continuation of violence, he added.

It is extremely important that Russia plays a great role in stopping the war in Bosnia, Owen stressed.

If the belligerents reach a ceasefire in Bosnia, the Russian parliament will be advised to consider increasing the number of the Russian peace-keepers stationed in Bosnia as a part of the UN Protection Force, Churkin said in this connection.

Churkin and Owen met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Tore Godal, who fully supported the idea of holding the meeting between foreign ministers of "the leading countries" with a view to settling crisis in Bosnia.

UN Assures Moscow its Views on Bosnia Will Be Considered

LD3004164394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] We have just this minute received some information from the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. It says: By continuing to play an active role in settling the situation in former Yugoslavia, Russian diplomacy, along with its five partners in Yugoslavia—Russia, Great Britain, Spain, the United States, and France—enabled important progress to be made in strengthening the safe havens regime in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Security Council has proposed that the UN secretary general come forward with concrete recommendations on this issue by 10 May. The UN Secretariat has assured the Russian representative that the Russian proposals put forward earlier on this will be taken into account when these recommendations are being worked out, in addition to the information in the letter from the Security Council chairman.

It is the unanimous view of the sides looking for a settlement that the strengthening of the safe havens regime will push forward significantly settlement of the main tasks today, being tackled by the Russian, the United States, EC, and the UN contact group. These are to achieve an end to all military activity and bring the conflicting sides back to the negotiating table.

This information is from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Finnish General Counsels Caution Over Links With NATO

PM2904100194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Rudolf Khiltunen: "Finland-NATO: There Should Be No Hurry Over Joining"]

[Text] Helsinki—In connection with the process of talks on Finland joining the European Union, the signing of Partnership for Peace treaties with NATO by a number of countries in East Europe, including the CIS, and statements on the possible conclusion of a similar document in Helsinki by Russia in the very near future, high-ranking military figures are increasingly frequently expressing their attitude to the consequences for the country's defense policy.

At a seminar held at the end of March, Lieutenant General Matti Kopra, chief of the Finnish Defense Forces General Staff Operations Directorate, for example, urged the Finns to be cautious when assessing and implementing decisions in the sphere of defense policy. "We should be in no hurry to become members of any military alliances," he said. "Our country now has more options in the sphere of security policy than at any time in its history. They must all be weighed up cautiously and unhurriedly."

The general also warned against adopting decisions in the defense sphere on the basis of "suddenly emerging notions of an external threat to Finland." "Our defensive system," he pointed out, "is a result of long-term planning and cannot be altered substantially in the space of a few years."

Academician Pekka Jauho, who studies these so-called notions of a threat, pointed out at the seminar that Finland's military position is being consistently complicated as a result of the changes in Europe. He voiced doubt that the country's security can be ensured with the help of any collective system in the event of a serious crisis.

Researcher Juha Martelius, who reported on Russia's new military doctrine, believes that the Russian Federation is concerned about the threat of NATO expanding to the borders of its immediate neighbors, as well as the worsening situation concerning the political and economic rights of Russia's citizens in the "near abroad." He believes that, at worst, Russia might consider Finland also to be part of the "near abroad." Second, "the self-organization of ethnic minorities of Russians and of Finns who have come here from St. Petersburg and the oblast to take up permanent residence has now become apparent in Finland, as a result of which not only a hotbed of social tension but also a security risk might arise in time." (Martelius is an expert on Russian affairs in the secret—political—police.)

One more question concerning Russia. Attention was attracted at the end of March by a statement by Lt. Gen. Lass Vekhter [name as transliterated], deputy commander of the Northern Military District, who was once military adjutant to President Urho Kekkonen. For security reasons he objects to the planned construction of a highway from Salla in northern Finland to Alakurtti in Murmansk Oblast. A Russian air unit is stationed in the latter population center. But the civilian authorities in the northern provinces of Oulu and Lappi adhere to a different opinion, considering this road beneficial to the economic development of both countries.

Martti Ahtisaari, Finland's new president, recently gave his first news conference after taking up his post. He reported that Finland's Partnership for Peace treaty with NATO might be concluded this spring. But the time of signing will not depend on the corresponding schedules of neighboring countries—Sweden and Russia. There is no hurry here, the president said.

Zhirinovskiy Denies Accusations of Extremism

AU2904195794 Munich DEUTSCHE NATIONAL-ZEITUNG in German 29 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia: "My Plans for Germany"]

[Text] When I read what some German publications and politicians say about me, the following strikes me first and foremost: I am accused of directly interfering in internal German affairs. That is why I even received an "entry ban" for a time, as if I were a worse sort of person than mafia bosses and drug dealers from other countries who are evidently viewed by certain forces as providing a valuable contribution to social life, people from whom one does not have to be cut off in the same way as one has to be cut off from me.

So I find it difficult not to write in a satirical vein about some German decisionmakers who emphasize national sovereignty vis-a-vis Russia and myself on the one hand, and even conduct a form of verbal gunboat policy, while on the other hand, they bitterly fight any sign of national self-awareness on the part of the German people, and want to give up every last trace of German national independence vis-a-vis the Western powers, that is to say, they are prepared to kowtow to foreign countries in a way that I find incomprehensible.

Against Any Kind of Interference

Second, the uproar about my supposed interference in German affairs is being fanned by media that do not shrink from playing the part of guardian and censor of the Russian nation. It is certainly of no benefit to Russo-German relations to condemn what has been decided by the Russian people, who have placed the greatest degree of trust in my party and in myself. Since the parliamentary elections last December, which saw my party become the strongest political force, irresponsible media demagogues in the FRG have interfered in Russia's internal affairs in an insolent manner on numerous occasions. In any event, it would not occur to me to attack the chairman of the strongest political force in Germany in the offensive manner that I have had to accept from certain gentlemen in Germany for months now. At the same time, I cannot imagine that they speak for the majority of the German people, who, I assume, deeply desire Russo-German reconciliation and accept the democratic decision made by the citizens of my country.

Third, the charge of interfering in Germany's internal affairs leveled against me is factually inaccurate. How the Germans deal with their internal affairs is solely a matter for the Germans. We Russians urgently request that there be an end to telling us what to do. As a Russian politician, I have enough to do without having to worry about Germany's internal affairs.

There Are More Options

However, as a Russian politician, I do feel responsible for Russo-German relations, if only because bilateral relations with the strongest economic power in Europe are of substantial interest to us, and because I have arrived at the following conclusion, having studied the history of both our peoples: The outcome for both my nation and for the Germans was always bad when we opposed each other or even used force against each other. By contrast, close cooperation has always a blessing for both nations. With this in mind, I have made a series of suggestions about the future form of Russo-German cooperation.

I do not want to tell the Germans what to do. Germany may like my suggestions or it may reject them. It is for Germany to decide freely and independently whether it wants to accept the hand that I have extended in friendship or not. That is because, despite being familiar with the mutual advantages that good Russo-German relations yield, there are also other options for my country, which is the largest state in the world. I would like to play the German card should I become president. However, I cannot continually explain to people in Russia why I am offering the Germans trump cards, when the answer that I always receive from there is a rejection.

More German Than the Germans?

I would like mention some instances of hypocrisy: I am continually being attacked by certain German forces, and the more I offer the Germans, the more I am condemned (when I put forward the solution to the question of Koenigsberg, one that was based on agreement, there was an enormous outcry in the German media!), and then there is outrage when I—out of a feeling of responsibility for my country—test various possible options for foreign relations. I ask of the Germans that they understand that, despite my great affection for that great people in the heart of Europe, I am a

Russian and a Russian politician first and foremost. To expect me to be more German than the Germans is, to put it mildly, completely unrealistic. The fact that many Germans view the world through foreign eyes does not mean that one can conclude that this illness is widespread outside the borders of the FRG.

In print runs that are probably larger than those of the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales—incidentally, I value their works very much for reviving German national consciousness at a time when the nation was being forgotten, and their stories are much loved in Russia—it is being said in Germany that I want to destroy the FRG with nuclear weapons, and without batting an eyelid, this accusation is often made in the same breath as the assertion that I, as a kind of "junior partner," want to seek world domination along with the Germans. It would, of course, be "logical" that I should want to turn the Germans into millions of skeletons first of all and then, in a joint formation with those skeletons, seek to conquer the world. It is also just as "logical" that, while maintaining a friendship with Dr. Frey, whose person and policies stand for a strong Germany, who, in accordance with the national anthem, loves "Germany above all else," I should want to kill the German people.

Both of these assertions are total nonsense. Both my supposed intention to want to destroy Germany with nuclear weapons as well as my supposed desire to achieve Russo-German domination over the world.

The Recipe Is Understanding

It is true that in the event that I become president, if need be, I would not hesitate to use all the weapons available in my country against an aggressor, regardless of where he should happen to come from. Over decades, it has been sought to impress upon the Germans that nuclear deterrence against a potential aggressor represented the highest degree of wisdom in statesmanship. I am surprised that I am now supposed to be the big bad wolf in the world, because I am following the deterrence doctrine of the Western powers in general, and West Germany in particular. Whoever wishes us no evil can sleep in peace. However, we do indeed want to cause fear among those who are hoping to be able to carve up my country into pieces and to condemn it to slavery.

As for wishing to dominate the world, in the event that I become president, I would be far from inclined to copy the U.S. head of state, who, on assuming office—like his predecessors—literally laid claim to "leadership of the world" for his state. In no hemisphere other than its own do I want Russia to play the first violin—in what is hopefully a peaceful concert—accorded to Russia by history and power.

Despite all the attempts at sabotage made by irresponsible circles, I am firmly convinced that in the long-term, those forces that support Russo-German understanding, Russo-German cooperation, will gain the upper hand. The Germans will not fail to seize the opportunity when it arises, to quote Bismarck, whom I deeply admire.

Zhirinovskiy To Begin Visit to Yugoslavia 8 May

LD3004161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is planning to leave Moscow on 8 May for Belgrade.

The press secretary of the Liberal Democratic faction in the Russian State Duma Grigoriy Serebrennikov says that Zhirinovskiy will be accompanied by a deputy chairman of both the Liberal Democratic party and the State Duma Aleksandr Vengerovskiy and Liberal Democrats who are either doing active duty or are retired servicemen.

According to Serebrennikov, the Zhirinovskiy delegation will be expected to hold consultations with Bosnia's Serb leaders.

DPRK Proposal To Replace Armistice With Treaty Welcomed

SK3004024394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 28 April. In the statement, Pyongyang proposed to the United States that they hold talks in the near future to discuss signing a peace treaty for establishing a peace-guaranteeing system that will substitute the present Armistice Agreement between the two countries.

Regarding this, station commentator (Srikov) writes:

The Korean Armistice Agreement signed some 40 years ago is still valid. On 8 July 1953, the agreement was signed on the Korean peninsula. The war seemed to have ended, but it still continues today. The most bloody war ghost [kajang yuhyolchogin chonjaeng yuryong] ever since the days of World War II is wandering there.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry's statement noted that the current situation of the Korean peninsula and the entire world requires the replacement of the present Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty between Pyongyang and Washington.

We cannot help but agree to this. An armistice is different from durable peace. The present situation, which poses a danger of war in Korea, cannot be regarded as a normal situation. A military conflict [kunsajok punjaeng] can take place at any point, and it would not be limited to the Korean peninsula as it was not some 50 years ago. Therefore, we can totally welcome the DPRK proposal for replacing the armistice in Korea with real peace.

However, there are many obstacles to overcome in the course toward peace.

The commentator continues:

The United States said that it reacted negatively to this proposal because the so-called nuclear plan of the DPRK was not clear. (Williams), a spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, said that the Washington-Pyongyang talks can be resumed only when it becomes possible for the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection team to conduct a close inspection of all nuclear facilities in the DPRK.

Pyongyang is also insisting on holding direct talks with Washington, excluding the ROK.

Of course, the need to replace the armistice with real peace in Korea has been (?discussed) since long ago because the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty would resolve a big issue in the world.

Official Denies Soskovets Discussed Writing Off Syrian Debt

LD2904151194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] A Russian Government official has denied media reports that Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, during his recent visit to Syria, had discussed writing off part of that country's debt to Russia.

The matter was not brought up at all at the Damascus talks, Sergey Sidorkov, head of the Russian Government's Department for Defense Industries and Defense Conversion, who accompanied Soskovets on his Syrian trip, told INTERFAX. Moreover, Syria agreed to pay for its orders to Russian enterprises in advance, he said. But all such matters—the volume of, and schedules for, supplies to Syria, including those of spares for armaments already sold to Damascus, payment procedures, etc.,—will be handled by a special intergovernmental commission, he said.

Sidorkov said no concrete plans for Russian arms sales to Syria had been negotiated during Soskovets's visit.

The bulk of Syria's $10-billion debt to Russia is in arrears for weapons bought from the Soviet Union in the 1970's and 1980's. Syria is willing to pay the debt to Russia as the Soviet Union's legal successor.

Agreement With Japan on Joint Processing of Nuclear Waste

LD2904141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[Text] Vladivostok 29 April TASS— Russia and Japan decided to build facilities in the Maritime Territory to store and utilise liquid radioactive waste. The decision was taken as a result of work by a Russian-Japanese intergovernment commission on settling one of the most pressing far eastern problems: storage and processing of liquid radioactive waste in the Maritime Territory.

Commission Member Yevgeniy Stomatyuk, chairman of the territorial committee on natural resources, told a news conference in Vladivostok on Friday that the two sides reached agreement to build a mobile facility in Japan in the near future.

It will store liquid radioactive waste from Russian nuclear-powered submarines till a stationary system for utilising waste is built.

The final discussion of the two projects will be held in Moscow and Tokyo at the top level. Their bilateral implementation will start in the latter part of May.

Political Issues

Yeltsin—No Resignation Before June 1996

LD2904125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] President Yeltsin does not intend to resign before his term is up. He declared in an interview with ABC on Friday that no matter how complex that might be, he was fully determined to make reforms in Russia irreversible. "Much has befallen my lot—said the president.— I often think of resigning. But the capital restructuring with me involved has got underway. This restructuring should be brought to irreversible reforms, and for this reason, I drop this thought of resignation. Before June 1996, I will not go," Yeltsin declared.

He also disclosed that not long ago members of his team, "15 men or so" from presidential structures and government, "sharply rebuked" him for his earlier expressed refusal to be nominated for a second term. "I gave my word to all of them that I will never answer these questions, even indirectly," Yeltsin remarked.

Asked about the state and prospects of Russian-American relations, he voiced readiness to sign a partnership treaty with the US. However, in his words, it should be signed along with a protocol on arms parity, in which both sides should identify the kinds and types of their weapons.

In this connection, Yeltsin fully ruled out the possibility of biological weapon production in Russia, even without his knowledge. "This is out of the question, he stressed. The former leadership allowed cheating. The biological weapons have been scrapped, as for the chemical weapons, we seek to destroy them within the agreed terms."

On the situation in the Balkans, Yeltsin voiced the conviction that air strikes would not resume. He denounced the Bosnian Serbs for "not keeping their word."

Yeltsin Issues Edict on State Policy

LD3004223094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, has issued an edict approving a program developed by the top staff of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences concerning carrying out in 1994-95 a comprehensive political and legal study on "Ways and Forms of Strengthening the Russian State." He also approved the main directions of the program for this study. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this today by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

According to this information, the main directions of the research program comprises six sections, the priority one being the development of the legal system of the Russian Federation following the adoption of the new constitution of the Russian Federation. It was noted that first and foremost it was necessary to ensure that such principles of a rule-of-law state as the state being bound by law, the supremacy of law, the guarantee of human rights and freedoms, the division and mutual restraint of powers are consistently executed in the constitutional and present legislation of the Russian Federation.

Preparation of a whole package of legislation on social and legal protection for citizens is urgently needed now that Russia is a social-oriented state. This is said in the section called "The Individual in the World Today—State Guarantees of Constitutional Status" of the document on basic directions.

It stressed that confirmation of the individual, his rights and freedoms, is a supreme value in the Russian Federation. This, along with the recognition that the state's main obligation is to protect the rights and freedoms of the individual and the citizen predetermine the necessity to perfect existing legislature and to work out and adopt new normative acts (which are either directly envisaged by the constitution of the Russian Federation, or are implied by them).

Further work on a federal anti-crime program is considered extremely important along with the adoption of a new criminal and civil procedure code, of a code on abuse of office, of laws against organized crime and corruption - needed to protect the individual from criminal arbitrariness. The research program draws attention to the fact that the institute of president, of head of state in Russia has acquired new state and legal substance. A parliament - a Federal Assembly - has been formed. The legal status of the Government, its place in the division of power, has been fundamentally changed. Judicial reform is under way, aimed at transforming the court into a genuinely independent "branch" of state power. One of the priority tasks of legal reform is to make federal state power an institution in legislation. In this sphere, it is necessary, it says in the political and legal research project, to work out and adopt such acts as a Law on the Government of the Russian Federation, a law, or general clause, on federal ministries, state committees and other federal bodies of executive power (including territorial), laws on the bases for setting up executive power bodies within the components of the Russian Federation, on federal bureaucracy, the judicial system, the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and a number of other laws.

Seeing Russia as a federative state based on the principle of the unity of the basic parts of the state system, on the principle of equality between the entities of the Russian Federation, of the supremacy of federal law, it is proposed that we also work out and adopt a number of laws, in particular, on the procedure for changing the constitutional status of an entity of the Russian Federation, on forming a new entity of the Russian Federation, and on registering a new entity in the Russian Federation. The authors of the program believe the Russian Federation should set out in legislation the principles for delimiting the areas of authority and the terms for mutual delegation (transfer) of power "along vertical lines," from the federation to entities within the federation and the other way round.

The idea has been put forward of transforming the territory of the former USSR into a single humanitarian area, where the rights of the Russian-speaking population - in countries of the "near abroad" - are guaranteed. Such an area would help solve the problem of forced migration. A Eurasian Commission for Human Rights and a Eurasian Court of Human Rights could serve as instruments supporting such a legal structure, the authors of the basic directions believe. They also say a Eurasian Charter (Convention) of human rights and rights of peoples should be prepared and adopted.

The research program also attributes importance to the Russian state's economic role and to Russia's role in the world community.

Yeltsin Signs Edict To Streamline Use of Foreign Labor

LD3004140394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Friday to streamline the use of foreign labour in Russia and ensure the priority right of Russian citizens to fill vacancies.

The document expands the December 16, 1993 decree on the use of foreign labour in Russia to cover foreign legal entities operating in Russia under contracts. The new regulations will not apply to those organisations which send employees to Russia to install their equipment.

Yeltsin Signs Edict on State Control of Oil Companies

LD3004135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Friday to ensure state control over the activity of emerging oil companies.

The decree instructs the government to ensure that 51 per cent of shares in the to-be-established Siberian-Far Eastern and Eastern oil companies are transferred to state ownership for three years.

Rutskoy Confirms Plans To Fight for Power

LD0105182494 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 1 May 94

[Interview with former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Aleksandr Gerasimov, date and place not given—from the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpts] [Gerasimov] Boris Yeltsin described the procedure for signing the Treaty on Public Accord as an assembly of civic accord. [passage omitted]

[Rutskoy] You see, everything that is taking place in our country today is the search for an enemy: Yet another [?document] is thought up, which should be signed and then an enemy should be found yet again, and so on and so forth. This is an agreement between President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Head of Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko, Head of State Duma Ivan Rybkin and the Patriarch. They will move to meet one another half way. All the other people who have signed are simply hostages to this system.

[Gerasimov] Currently the former vice-president is holding talks with different parties and public movements in order to set up a political organization which would (?make it possible to) start an election campaign for seats in the parliament and the post of president.

[Rutskoy] I intend to set up an all-Russian public and political movement. We have already found a formula for this movement by giving it the name of social-patriotic movement. We plan to have registered membership in the movement. The movement will have iron discipline and firm order. We do not need any dissent [inakomysliye] at all in the movement because we have already had relevant experience. Ultimately, the movement's goal is to come to power because without power it is simply impossible to implement the ideas and tasks which we have set to ourselves. [passage omitted]

Denies Issuing 1993 Order Regarding Yeltsin Aides

LD3004190694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The NTV television company said it had in its possession a document signed by former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy during the days of the October crisis in 1993. This is an edict instructing state bodies and officials to stop members of Yeltsin's immediate entourage from going abroad. In an NTV interview, Rutskoy categorically refuted the allegations that he was the author of this document, saying that this edict was forged.

Communists Call for 3 May General Strike

LD0105144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1209 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] One of the communist party leaders Anatoliy Kryuchkov speaking at a rally in Moscow's Kalyzhskaya Square has backed up a proposal by chief of the Russian Communist Party Viktor Anpilov to hold a national strike on May 3rd to mark seven months since last October's parliamentary uprising.

For his part, leader of the Union of Communists Aleksey Prigarin called for next year's May Day celebrations to be held in a Soviet state. On last October's events, he said "the government neither wants nor is capable of leading the country out of crisis." He denied that the present regime had become stronger since. The regime is on the brink of an abyss and that is why it has started to talk about civil peace, Prigarin said. By contrast, he said, the opposition has built up its muscle though it is not strong enough yet to be able to lead most of the farmers, workers and intellectuals.

The rally involved prominent opposition leaders such as chairwoman of the former Soviet Union's parliamentary leadership Sazhi Umalatova, Ilya Konstantinov of the National Salvation Front, Communist Party leaders Gennadiy Zyuganov and Anatoliy Lukyanov, leader of the Russian National Union Sergey Baburin and chairman of the Union of Communist Parties Oleg Shenin.

As the marchers went along Leninskiy Prospect in southwestern Moscow, a man was spotted on the rooftop of an adjacent building throwing down anti-communist leaflets.

Police have begun searches for the man while the marchers tore apart the leaflets describing the action as provocation, our corespondent reports from the scene.

Earlier, similar leaflets were thrown down from the top of a building in Tverskaya Street during a demonstration arranged by the trade unions in Moscow.

The demonstrators marching along Leninskiy Prospect stopped close to Gagarin Square, the scene of last year's violent clashes between police and protesters, to keep a minute's silence in memory of the victims. Red flags were lowered and several flowers laid on the roadside.

Speaking over a loudspeaker, communist party leader Viktor Anpilov promised that "time will come when police will appear on city streets without truncheons or automatic guns, but this is impossible under the present regime." On his proposal, anti-Yeltsin slogans were chanted.

One of the leaders of the Working Russia Movement Vladimir Gusev called on the demonstrators to take a vow to the fallen opposition members that "we will defend our Soviet state" and win the cause that "our friends have died for."

Our correspondent says that none of the speakers mentioned that Vladimir Tolokneyev, member of riot police, was the only dead victim from last year's clashes. Leader of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov told our correspondent that although he mourned about all victims dying in violent clashes last May and October, "it must be realized that the opposition tried to defend itself." At the same time, he admitted that Tolokneyev's should have been mentioned.

Zyuganov Opposes 3 May Strike Call

LD0105162994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and member of Russian Parliament Gennadiy Zyuganov says he is opposed to the idea of a national political strike put forward by Viktor Anpilov, the leader of the Working Russia Movement.

In an interview with Interfax during a pro-communist rally at Vorobyev Hills in Moscow on Sunday, he pointed to widespread stoppages throughout the country.

Instead, he said, the question is one of massive political protest against government policies, but on a decision from a broad coalition of national-patriotic forces rather than any one party.

For his part, Anpilov in a speech to the earlier May Day rally in Kaluzhskaya Square had called to start preparations for a general political strike under the slogans of Down with the Government of Traitors! All power to the Workers!

Zyuganov did not elaborate on the shape of "massive political protest". However, he said it could take any form provided the decision making was collective and the action held at the right time.

He also wants this to be agreed with agrarians not to worsen the already adverse situation in the farming sector.

On the city administration's behavior during the event, Zyuganov described it as normal recommending the authorities not to train special police units on the eve of holidays but give them a rest and help workers arrange their demonstrations instead.

In his view, the next demonstration due on Victory Day on May 9 would involve more people than last year when tens of thousands of protesters took part.

Communist Leader Demands Yeltsin's Resignation at Rally

LD0105123094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 May 94

[Video report by A. Kondulukov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Today veterans of the Communist demonstrations and battles at Ostankino and the White House are marking May Day. Representatives of the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the liberal patriotic party Rebirth, as well as the All-Union Communist Bolshevik Party, Working Russia, the Komsomol, and generally all shades of the communist spectrum have gathered by the giant Lenin monument on Oktyabrskaya Square. [passage omitted]

The untiring propagandist Viktor Anpilov called on those assembled to prepare for a political strike and to join the ranks of the Russian Communist Workers' Party, which is already beginning to compile lists of people's presidential candidates. Every opposition candidate will have to make three basic promises: To abolish mayors, to legalize Soviet power, and to return to the people what has been stolen from them—land, factories, and currency accounts.

[Begin Anpilov recording, addressing rally] We did not want a war in 1993. But we will fight on to eventual victory, and stop the hated regime that is carrying out the forcible capitalization of our country, comrades. [end recording]

Anpilov does not intend to adopt peaceful proposals. In his words, the main condition for civic peace is the resignation of Yeltsin and the capitalist government.

Yes, today the Communists are demanding a lot—the cancellation of the results of the December referendum, a change of government, the elimination of the post of president, power for the Soviets, and the restoration of the Soviet Union. In order to achieve this, the Communists are determined to expand their ranks, and that is their main task today. As one of the Russian Communist Workers' Party leaders said, that means more leaflets, more words, and more propaganda work in factory shops and on the trolleybuses.

10,000 Reportedly Attend National Salvation Front Rally

LD0105103094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Unfortunately, there has been no shortage of anti-president and anti-government slogans at a rally in Moscow on Teatralnaya Square staged by the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions. ITAR-TASS reports that at least 5,000 people attended the rally.

On Kaluzhskaya [Kaluga] Square, formerly Oktyabrskaya [October] Square, a rally is currently being staged by parties and movements belonging to the National Salvation Front. Working Russia, headed by Viktor Anpilov, is taking part. [word indistinct] at the rally, which has gathered about 10,000 people, political and socio-economic demands are being made.

Demonstrators in Moscow Rally Voice Demands

LD0105102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 1 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow May 1 TASS—The orators at a meeting in the centre of Moscow sponsored by the Moscow Federation of Labour Unions demanded that the government pay up on its salary obligations, index salaries to the inflation rate, give state subsidies to the agricultural sector, get rid of unemployment, establish strict control over retail trade, and do much more.

As always happens with such demonstrators, there was no lack of anti-president and anti-government slogans. All the speakers finished their appearances with hurrahs for international workers' solidarity day. However, in contrast to previous years, there were no representatives of the international proletariat at the meeting.

The Moscow Federation of Labour Unions collected about ten thousand demonstrators for its march from Triumfalnaya (Triumph) Square to the Manezh just across from the Kremlin, which started at nine a.m. this morning. By the time the procession reached the meeting place, it had lost half its participants. Dominant were representatives from almost all the trade unions, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and guests from many Russian regions.

The meeting was over at 10:30, by which time the square had practically emptied.

'About 25,000' Reportedly Take Part

LD0105101594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0916 GMT 1 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Zhilyakova]

[Text] Moscow, 1 May—Representatives of trade unions who held a festive rally in Manezh Square in the capital today on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity of the Working People stated their readiness to defend the economic and social interests of the working people.

We are for accord and civic peace but not at the expense of the working people and not at the expense of depriving common people of their rights, Mikhail Nagaytsev, chairman of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions [MFTU] said opening the rally. According to him, on the eve of May Day about 2.5 million people signed demands circulated by the MFTU, which will be passed to the government. Among them are demands to introduce articles to the legislation of the Russian Federation on the accountability of those guilty of delaying salary payments, to adopt a state employment program for the population, and to step up the work of law-enforcement bodies in the fight against crime and corruption.

A resolution adopted by the rally—in which about 25,000 people took part according to Nagaytsev—notes that a solution to the present crisis, which is leading to the country's impoverishment, is possible only if the level of unemployment is halted, there is state support for Russia's producers, and tariff agreements are fulfilled.

War and labor veterans and members of the Russian Communist Party took part in the rally in Manezh Square together with representatives of 42 trade union organizations from Moscow city and oblast, St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Voronezh, Smolensk, Kostroma, Tula, Kaluga, and other towns.

May Day Rallies, Demonstrations in Russian Cities

LD0105211194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 1 May (ITAR-TASS)—The number of people participating in Mayday demonstrations in cities in the European part of Russia and in the Caucasus varied widely. In many places bad weather reduced the number of people wishing to demonstrate on the streets under red banners. The number of demonstrators in Novgorod amounted to no more than a thousand. In St. Petersburg there were two simultaneous rallies. The first was a rally of the Russian Communist Workers' Party together with the "Working Leningrad" movement. About 3000 persons took part in it. Only a few dozens arrived to take part in the rally of the united independent trade unions. The procession in Yaroslavl was small. In Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad, and Makhachkala there were no more than 150 people listening to the speakers, although it did not rain there. In Tver and Kaluga, Mayday was celebrated by up to 2000 citizens, mainly veterans. In Bryansk and Petrozavodsk, approximately 500 people took part in the rallies. In every case the main organizers were the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the All-Union Communist Party, and all-Russia and local trade union organizations.

In Tula the largest rally for the last two years was held in the center of the town. Ulyanovsk and Voronezh were exceptional: In the first 10,000 people took part in the rally, in the second there was an exceptionally large number both of demonstrators and of organizers of the Mayday demonstrations. The latter included the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the trade union of small entrepreneurs "Solidarnost", the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the "Trudovoy Voronezh" [Working Voronezh] movement.

At the rallies, along with slogans about the reinstatement of the USSR and the transfer of power to the Soviets, there were demands to put an end to the economic chaos and chronic non-payments, to put an end to crime, unemployment, and the infringement of citizens' social guarantees. The demand for the Russian Government to resign and for a change in the course of the reforms was common to all the towns. In St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl and Kaliningrad the recently signed Treaty on Public Accord was criticized. At the rally in Voronezh, where various political forces presented a united front, a resolution was adopted which contained a number of radical demands addressed to the Russian president, the government and the Federal Assembly. The special feature of the St. Petersburg rallies was the unwillingness of the trade union organizers to have anything in common with the communist rally, a situation that almost led to a clash.

The veterans in Kaluga were unanimous in voting for an anti- government resolution. At the same time in Tver their meeting was not particularly emotional. The speakers stressed that they would not support a civil war but were in favor of the revival of Russia. Signatures were collected at the same rally for the repeal of the Russian-American military exercises at the "Totskoye" test range in the Orenburg Oblast.

A peaceful atmosphere reigned on Mayday in Belgorod. The oblast trade unions' council and the administration of the oblast center invited the citizens to a celebration of the spring and of labor. The motto of the holiday was: Workers' solidarity. Its program included a brass band concert, performances by the best amateur artists' groups, a circus performance, meetings of veterans, and a festival "Sport for everyone".

Yeltsin's Office Opts for Faxnet Communications System

PM2904124394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by Vadim Budnikov, identified by caption]

[Text] Fewer than 50 percent of intercity faxes reach their addressees in Russia. The reason for this are poor communications channels and antediluvian equipment at most telephone exchanges. Ordinary people simply have to somehow live with this. But this situation is totally unacceptable in the case of the president's office or the government apparatus. Official information must be transmitted instantly, otherwise normal administration of the country becomes impossible. This would be particularly dangerous during an exacerbation of the political situation.

[B. Kosenkov, spokesman of the president's office, identified by caption] This is why the president's office has opted for the Faxnet network. This system makes it possible to transmit information to remote areas promptly, speedily, and with a high degree of reliability.

[Budnikov] A purely Russian feature of this modern technology is the utilization of the channels of the former Iskra party-economic communications system which links some 500 cities in our country. [video shows office equipment including Faxnet LAN-mailer and a diagram]

Republican Party Leader on Signing of Accord Treaty

LD2904142894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1051 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—"If the Russian Republican Party have not signed the Social Accord Treaty, this would mean its complete political isolation and sliding to recalcitrant opposition", deputy of the Duma Vladimir Lysenko, co-chairman of the party, told a news conference on Friday. Lysenko views the signing of the treaty by Russia's political elite as an important step toward civic accord and a breakthrough in public conscience.

Lysenko hopes there will be no more revolutions in Russia. Society embarks of a period of evolutional development. He believes the treaty may offer an opportunity of political stability in a country for at least two years. Political competition will be manifested in parliamentary and presidential elections, not through violent non-parliamentary actions.

Lysenko apparently decided to give the news conference because of the situation that formed as a result of the Republican Party's joining the treaty while leaders of the group Yabloko in which the party is included refused to do so. It should be noted that representatives of the Republican Party were elected to the state duma on the ticket of Yabloko bloc.

Possible Split in Yavlinskiy Alliance Over Accord

LD2904162794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The Republican Party (RP), having signed the Civic Accord Pact, believes that it gives the country a chance at evolutionary development, one RP leader Vladimir Lysenko who is also in the Yavlinskiy-led alliance said on Friday. He stressed that any refusal to sign the document would have led to the RP's political isolation and fall into the camp of the hardline opposition.

Lysenko said that only two out of RP's eight-member council voted against signing the Pact. They are Vyacheslav Shostokovskiy and Igor Yakovenko of the Yavlinskiy-led alliance.

Asked if the RP decision was likely to split the Yavlinsky alliance, which refused to sign the document, Lysenko warned against dramatizing the situation adding that he himself would stay put as its member.

The decision not to sign the Civic Accord Pact was made by alliance leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy while other members including Vladimir Lukin and Viktor Sheynis had warned against rejecting it, Lysenko said.

One other RP leader Stepan Sulakshin who recently defected from the Russia's Choice Party said he had had differences with its leader Yegor Gaydar because of his dogmatic reform policy "which inevitably leads to violence." On his immediate plans, Sulakshin said he did not contemplate joining any faction or group for the time being and that "time will alone tell what happens next."

In the meantime, one other member of the RP council and Yavlinskiy-led faction Igor Yakovenko has accused Lysenko of reneging on the alliance's position.

In an interview with Interfax, he said Lysenko should have given up the mandate he won running on the alliance's ticket before signing the Pact.

"Lysenko who was defeated as an independent owes his mandate to the Yavlinskiy-led alliance. By reneging on the faction's platform, he has in fact cheated the electorate," Yakovenko said. He said the question of party infighting and its stand on the Civic Accord Pact would be discussed at a party congress in June.

Party Leaders Clarify Role of Democratic Russia

LD2904180694 Moscow RIA in English 1609 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 29, RIA—The Democratic Russia movement intends to become a party of the same name, initiators of the organising committee of a federal party, movement co-chairmen Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin said today.

Ponomarev told a RIA correspondent by telephone that the two other co-chairmen of the movement—Ilya Zaslavskiy and Grigoriy Tomchin—joined Yegor Gaydar's newly created party Russia's Choice, while the position of the fifth co-chairwoman—Galina Starovoitova—remains unknown because she is abroad.

The split, says a statement issued by Ponomarev and Yakunin today, was caused by the fact that Democratic Russia does not want to become an organisation arranging mass actions for the Russia's Choice party, as the Soviet trade unions did for the CPSU.

In Ponomarev's view, "in three to four months it will be possible to think of registering the party, but before that a lot of work has to be done in the regions".

"The Democratic Russia party will be a rival to Gaydar's Russia's Choice, but we do not expect ideological differences between the two related parties," noted Ponomarev.

'Dynamic Center' Needed To Implement Accord Treaty

PM2904124994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Statement by Presidential Council Member Aleksey Salmin under the general heading "Treaty on Accord Is Open Book": "Mechanism for Implementation Necessary, Presidential Council Member Aleksey Salmin Believes"]

[Text] An immense amount of work has been done on the draft Treaty on Civil Accord and various parties' interests have been taken into account in it. Unfortunately, this has not always come about harmoniously and there are problems in the text itself. However, the main point is not that it has been produced but the way this document will "work."

After all, this important document should be "built into" a certain system of relations, therefore its fate is still not determined even if its signing goes off smoothly.

The problem for the accord's potential participants, all branches and centers of power on Russian territory, is for the document to actually "begin to work." This means that there should be a certain mechanism for its implementation. Such a mechanism could be a genuine accord in parliament, in particular, between several factions. A broad nationwide accord is not even necessary but a more local one so as to adopt a package of essential laws connected with security (on the whole, personal security), and other laws, in particular, on economic reform, as well as criminal and civil codes, and much else as concerns legislation.

For this it is necessary that, on the basis of the treaty, efficient coalitions are formed in both of parliament's chambers, and it is also, of course, necessary for a genuine accord to exist between Moscow and the Federation components.

So, a dynamic center is necessary to implement the accord so that it does not remain only on paper but becomes a fact of political life. Such a dynamic center could take the form of permanent consultations at the highest level between representatives of the various power structures. It would be better if this is a permanent working group with a high level of cooperation. Because, despite the fact that an important and essential step has been taken, what is most important—precisely that which lies at this document's heart—still lies ahead.

Chubays on Benefits of Foreign Investment

LD0105150994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0721 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] The next subject in our Panorama slot may possibly come as a surprise. After all, two whole months remain before the so-called zero hour—two whole months before the period for using our privatization vouchers ends. Some people may have forgotten, or some people may not fully remember the mechanism for using our vouchers and the legal mechanism for the privatization process. It was these matters that our correspondent Nikolay Filippov put to Anatoliy Chubays, the Russian deputy prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Filippov] Anatoliy Borisovich, what do we need to do in the remaining two months?

[Chubays] It is a short period of time and many people have not yet managed to properly ponder their next moves. [passage omitted]

At present we estimate that there are at least 10 million, people who have not yet taken their final decision. [passage omitted] On 1 July the period of validity of the privatization vouchers expires. They need to be used before then. [passage omitted] Our figures show that the involvement of foreigners in the voucher privatization process has been very insignificant. In fewer than 10 percent of cases has foreign capital been involved in the voucher privatization process itself. There is no sense therefore in saying that our homeland is being sold off for a song. [passage omitted]

We now see, especially over the past few months, a sharp increase in the involvement of foreign capital at the post-voucher stage. [passage omitted] When I see that at the post-voucher stage many major firms such as Siemens, Proctor and Gamble, and Philip Morris are investing tens of billions of dollars in Russian enterprises, it signifies for me an upsurge in Russian enterprises and the start of a growth in dividends. [passage omitted] Dividends grow and at the same time the Russian economy gains, because it means increased production, new jobs, and the start of an emergence from the crisis that we are now in. Indeed, we are starting to emerge through the inflow of investments that have been forthcoming only because private enterprises and joint-stock companies are concerned. This is a guarantee of a real start to an upsurge of the Russian economy as a whole. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Chubays Threatens Disclosures on Privatization Policy

LD2904175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1057 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Security, will, after the spring parliamentary recess, make public documentary evidence in his possession of infringements of privatization regulations by the State Committee for the Management of State Property. He told this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent in a telephone conversation today.

Viktor Ilyukhin is unperturbed by the news that Anatoliy Chubays has decided to bring a court action against him for slander. "As a lawyer," he underlined, "I judge the documents I have collected to be very serious. They show convincingly that the methods which Anatoliy Chubays is using to carry out the transfer of state property into private hands serve the interests of only 15 to 20 percent of Russia's population."

Without waiting for the court to consider, the chairman of the Duma Security Committee has decided to inform press representatives of the contents of these documents on approximately 11-12 May—immediately after the end of the lower chamber of parliament's recess.

Yeltsin Approves Research Program for Legal System

LD3004183294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The president has issued a decree approving a program to conduct complex political and legal research in 1994-95 on ways and forms of strengthening the Russian state. The program has been developed by workers of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Boris Yeltsin has also sanctioned the main directions of this research. They include six sections, of which the priority one is the development of the legal system of the Russian Federation after the adoption of the new constitution. In particular, an idea has been advanced concerning the setting up of a unified humanitarian space over the territory of the former Soviet Union, which will guarantee protection of the rights of the Russophone population in the former Soviet republics and will help settle the issue of forced emigration.

New Political Lineup Seen Emerging from Civic Peace Pact

MK3004113094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Viktor Bondarev article: "The President Is Forming a Right- Centrist Alliance"]

[Text] If Russia's Choice is considered rightist, understanding the latter as the liberal-conservative political orientation, then the signing of the Civic Accord Charter should be recognized as an attempt by the president to form a right-centrist political alliance. Perhaps herein lies the main essence of the ceremony in the Kremlin.

Of course, far from all the signatories will collaborate with the executive branch. But the fact that they have turned up at the Kremlin points to a certain, and fairly substantial, change in the political situation in Russia after the October events and the December elections. Especially indicative is the discipline of the Federation component leaders. For all its shortfalls and bleary prospects, the drive for the adoption of the charter has allowed the presidential team to regain political initiative after the Duma- inspired amnesty. The opposition and the opponents of the executive branch had to play by the rules that were enforced on them. True, after the elections Yeltsin made both political and economic concessions to the centrists, which to a substantial extent made the signing possible. The legitimate question arises: Will a worsening economic situation not be the price to pay for the temporary political respite?

The real leader of Russian centrists today is the premier, while the economic course he has pursued in the past few months can on balance be deemed successful. Although the government failed to organize anything properly, and institutional changes are moving along by themselves, and the government has never made any useful decisions, nonetheless Chernomyrdin managed sharply to reduce the rate of inflation and depreciation of the ruble. In April inflation again will be approximately 10 percent. The fall in the inflation rate, however, has to do not only with a tough financial policy but also the overcoming of the dual-power situation and the economic confusion it brought about. The reforms undertaken by Gaydar provided a certain impetus which Chernomyrdin had to follow to a certain point. And while the premier is realizing this policy, the union—formal or informal—between liberals (i.e., Gaydar and Fedorov) and centrists is still possible.

Unexpectedly to many, another main figure in this right-centrist bloc became Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. His role manifested itself especially strongly just before the signing of the charter, when Zhirinovskiy and the national-communists tried to use the assassination of a State Duma deputy to provoke a political crisis. The stormy debate in the Duma, however, did not go outside its walls, turning into a tempest in a teapot. The central role in this was played by the current Constitution which has sharply limited the possibility of deputy arbitrariness, which was characteristic of the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies. Yet one cannot underestimate the significance of the policy of the speaker, who used his power to promote the charter. Incidentally, Rybkin's effective inclusion into the presidential team can also be seen as one of the results in the struggle for a civic pact.

With his activity—and what is more important, its effectiveness—Rybkin even has pushed somewhat into the background yet another figure on which the president relies: Federation Council Speaker V. Shumeyko. The latter has already had a few setbacks: budget blocking by the upper chamber, the Kazannik case, and the Federation Council's rejection of Ilyushenko.

The presidential team has conducted the struggle for the charter to be concluded very actively but mostly behind closed doors, in the lobbies, and also using material incentives—by handing out promises to the industries. The public, ideological side of the process has been totally inadequate. The president's immediate entourage, or rather his administration, failed to produce any strong political figures capable of upholding his position in debates with opponents and rivals. Earlier, this role was played by Popov, Poltoranin, Shumeyko, Shakhray, and Gaydar, who acted as direct exponents of the president's will. Now they have receded, and the main promoter of the pact became Gaydar, whose status as a faction leader was obviously out of tune with his inherited role as legitimizer of civic peace. True, the Russia's Choice leader's activity allows to talk about the president's right-centrist, not just centrist, bloc. Characteristically, Gaydar has already come out with the idea of nominating Yeltsin in the next elections. Yet it hardly makes much sense trying to look so far ahead.

Plenum of 3 High Courts Works on Judges Status Law

MK3004112094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 20

[Aleksandra Semenova report: "Joint Plenum of Three Courts"]

[Text] A joint plenum of Russia's Constitutional, Supreme, and Higher Arbitration Courts was held in the Supreme Court of Russia building yesterday. It discussed draft amendments to the law "On the Status of Judges." As a result, a drafting commission was confirmed which would busy itself with finalizing the wording of the amendments and then submit them to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly for approval.

The plenum agreed with the provision in the draft law on a single status for judges. In the words of Constitutional Court acting Chairman Nikolay Vitruk, in the law "it is necessary to underline precisely the unity of judges." The plenum approved the article in the draft law on judges' independence and abiding only by the requirements of the Constitution and the Federal law.

Speakers at the plenum noted that it is necessary to reduce the length of service qualifying judges for life-long financial support from 20 to 10 years. According to one of the judges, 10 years is quite sufficient for earning "the whole bunch of occupational ailments." The plenum also agreed that the length of service in the prosecution, justice, and investigation bodies should be taken into account in calculating the size of life-long financial support.

Lyudmila Maykova, deputy chairperson of the Council of Judges of Russia, proposed that state arbiters should have the same social benefits as judges, which they do not have now.

Representatives of the Constitutional Court suggested that the draft law should include a provision on the creation of its own independent security service. The participants also agreed with the provision that judges should have the right to carry firearms.

The plenum also discussed the questions of benefits for judges working in the extreme north: one year of work there will be put on record as 18 months.

The draft law "On the Status of Judges" will be put into final shape by a commission of nine participants in the plenum confirmed by that body.

Ethnic Communities Congress Begins Work

MK3004102094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Gleb Cherkasov report under the "Structure" rubric: "Russia's Ethnic Communities Now Have Congress. President and Government Send Greetings"]

[Text] The founding convention of the Congress of Ethnic Communities of Russia opened in Moscow on 29 April. Taking part in its work are delegates from 19 ethnic-cultural societies bringing together citizens of Russia who happen to live outside the areas with dense populations of people of the same ethnic origin, or those who have no such areas (dispersed ethnic groups). Also present were representatives of several more ethnic associations who preferred the role of observers, and representatives of the Repressed Peoples Confederation.

The idea for holding the congress met with warm support from the powers that be—at least Boris Yeltsin, and Vice Premiers Sergey Shakhray and Yuriy Yarov thought it appropriate to send their representatives to read out greetings. In particular, the president's message to the congress participants notes the beneficial nature of such an action for improving interethnic relations in Moscow and Russia. For his part Mr. Yarov's representative, who also wished successful work to the congress, invited them to interact with the government apparatus. Also, messages of greetings from the National-Cultural Society to the congress have come from the other countries of the "near and far abroad."

In their addresses the congress delegates complained about the disastrous state of their ethnic cultures and lack of appropriate material conditions to revive and develop them; they blamed both the local and central authorities for inattention to the problems of dispersed ethnic groups which, they thought, results from lack of understanding rather than from ill-will. Addressing his fellow members, Mikhail Chlenov, member of the new organization's organizing committee, called on them not to limit their activities to culture and education but also to ponder on how to lend the Congress the functions of a public-political organization.

Bragin Appointed Deputy Minister of Culture

LD2904162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Vyacheslav Bragin, former head of the Ostankino Radio and Television Broadcasting Company, has been appointed deputy minister of culture of the Russian Federation.

ITAR-TASS received an instruction of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to that effect on Friday.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Says No Changes in Economic Policy

LD3004143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1317 GMT 30 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Goncharov]

[Text] Orenburg, 30 Apr—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is currently in Orenburg oblast, has said that the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord will not be followed by changes in the government economic and cadre policy, although some amendments will be made. He will attend festivities on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Orenburg Province.

First Quarter Foreign Trade Statistics Reported

LD3004050594 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In the first quarter of 1994 Russia's foreign trade turnover with countries outside the CIS came to $12.7 billion, a fall of 8.4 percent compared with the first quarter of 1993 at today's prices. This includes its trade with industrially developed countries, which came to $7.6 billion and remained at the level of the first quarter of 1993; trade with developing countries, which came to $1.6 billion and fell by 31 percent; and trade with other countries (former Comecon [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] countries, China, North Korea, republics of the former Yugoslavia, and the Baltic countries), which came to $3.5 billion and fell by 11 percent.

Russia's exports in January to March were equal to $8.9 billion, an increase of 2.9 percent, including $3.3 billion in March, 2.4 percent more than in March 1993.

Crude oil exports came to 19 million tonnes (3 percent more than the first quarter of 1993); natural gas exports came to 29 million cubic metres (13 percent more); exports of oil products came to five million tonnes (12 percent less); coal exports came to 2.9 million tonnes (14 percent less); iron ore exports came to 2.4 million tonnes (157 percent more); exports of mineral fertilizer came to three million tonnes (25 percent more); exports of round timber came to 1.8 million (?metres of chopped wood) (one percent less); pig iron exports came to 452,000 tonnes (23 percent more); ammonia exports came to 907,000 tonnes (7 percent more); and exports of vehicles and equipment came to 398 million dollars, 33 percent less than the first quarter of 1993.

Russia's imports amounted to $3.8 billion, a fall of 27 percent compared with the first quarter of last year. Imports in March 1994 came to 1.4 billion dollars, also a 25 percent decrease on March 1993.

Grain, Food Imports Down Sharply in 1994

MK2904121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—In the first three months of 1994, Russia did not sign a single contract with the main foreign grain suppliers, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations advises. Grain imports over the period did not exceed 372,000 tonnes, or only slightly more than 12 percent of the same period last year. This grain was delivered under 1993 carry-over contracts. In the first quarter of 1994, the amounts of purchases of many other types of food including meat, white sugar, and pasta continued to decline.

Plan for Converting Aeroflot Into Joint-Stock Firm Detailed

MK3004111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Yelena Kotelnikova report under the "'Aeroflot' Privatization" rubric: "'Aeroflot' To Receive the Status of National Carrier"]

[Text] The government has been pinning Russia's prospects for securing a niche in the world air-travel market on Aeroflot. From now on it will become our flag-carrier, a status set forth in the government decree "On Approving the Charter of the "Aeroflot—Russian International Airlines" Joint-Stock Company." While vesting Aeroflot with the right to represent the country's interests on the world air-travel market, the government is at the same time tightening state control over its activity.

The "Aeroflot—Russian International Airlines" Joint-Stock Company was set up following the reorganization of the "Aeroflot—Soviet Airlines" commercial association, the Central International Civil Aviation Air Traffic Administration, the International Commercial Civil Aviation Administration, the Sheremetyevo Technical Aviation Enterprise, the International Payments Center, and the "Rossiya" Interregional Agency of International Air Services.

According to the charter, Sheremetyevo international airport and the Moscow Airlines company will be separated from Aeroflot to become independent state-owned firms. The authorized capital of the newly created open-end joint-stock company is 2,186,394,000 rubles. Before privatization begins, however, all Aeroflot stock will be kept in federal ownership and will not be offered for sale until the government so authorizes. The documents envision the possibility of selling 49 percent of the stock to the airline's workers, but the period of denationalization is not specified: the White House has not yet worked out a clear stance on the subject. Dividends accrued on shares remaining in federal ownership must be paid exclusively to the joint-stock company for three years, to be spent on aviation technology and equipment purchases.

According to the concept devised by government experts, apart from "protecting economic and other (which?—KOMMERSANT-DAILY) interests" of Russia, Aeroflot's objective is to make profits not only by "meeting requirements for international and domestic air travel," but also by providing other services. By so doing the government gives in advance the go-ahead to any commercial activity by the leading airline.

This makes sense. Aeroflot is the sole Russian company that can boast long years of operation on a highly competitive world market. Such experience cannot be acquired by sitting in government offices. Aeroflot's competitiveness has not been dented by the emergence of other Russian airlines on the international market. This was confirmed, for instance, by the fact that Aeroflot was among two airlines operating international services that ended last year with a profit (over 200 billion rubles), the other one being British Airways, which earned around $100 million.

The government, however, thought it necessary to tighten control over the activity of the enterprise. This will be achieved primarily by changing the form of management. The status of a joint-stock company calls for a board of directors (seven people), whose chairman and members are appointed by the government. The government will therefore be able to control the entire day-to-day financial activity of a profitable company. thus creating conditions for raising federal budget revenues from its operations. This is why Aeroflot, of course, will be in a privileged position when obtaining air-travel licenses. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that state protection will affect Aeroflot's pricing policy of setting the prices of its services too high by comparison with their quality.

Media Issues

Chernomyrdin: State To Cut Support for Mass Media

MK3004074094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Orenburg"]

[Text] "The state does need the press and television, but not in the amounts in which they currently exist," Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists in Orenburg, where he arrived to attend festivities on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Orenburg Guberniya's formation. The premier pointed out that the state would maintain a number of newspapers and television channels, but this would not apply to all existing mass media. According to the head of government, the system of state support for newspapers and television will be preserved only during a transition period.

Chernomyrdin Backs Draft Law Protecting Press

*PM2904105194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
29 Apr 94 p 2*

[Igor Korolkov report: "Chernomyrdin Intends To Ease the Lot of the Press"]

[Text] The prime minister has supported a draft law on state protection, Boris Mironov, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press, reported at a press conference, the state protection in question being applied to the mass media, book production, and those sectors—the printing and paper industries—which provide them with services.

Under the draft law, among other things, the printing facilities of the mass media are exempt from the payment of customs duties for the import of paper, printing equipment, and spare parts which are not produced in Russia. Publishing houses are also exempt from customs duties for the products they export. The mass media will receive a 50 percent discount on postal, telegraph, and telephone communication charges.

If the draft law proposed by the Committee for the Press is passed by the State Duma, it will cost the state exchequer R1 billion. Unlike Chernomyrdin and the Ministry of the Economy, which have supported it, the Finance Ministry is against. This is understandable: It fears that other sectors will also argue their exceptional status and demand similar concessions.

Press Committee Concerned by Loss of Print Jobs

*PM2904140194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Apr 94 p 1*

[Aleksandr Sazhin report: "It Is Not Subsidies But a Law That Is Needed. 'Emergency Meeting' in Russian Federation Press Committee"]

[Text] Moscow—Yesterday the Russian Federation Press Committee held an 'emergency meeting' of central and regional newspaper journalists. Committee Chairman B. Mironov told those attending about the results of the work of the two-day central and regional newspaper editors' conference. There was also a kind of committee report on the work it has done in the last four months.

As is known, at the end of December and beginning of January the mass media was in a crisis situation—typographic service prices sharply increased because of an revaluation of polygraphic capacities. This could have led to the closure of many publications. A solution was nevertheless found.

"We proposed two options for solving the problem," Mironov said. "The first is to continue subsidizing the press in 1994. This is not a promising route because not everyone can be given help. Over 1 trillion rubles would be needed to do this. Naturally the government does not have that kind of money at the moment. The second is to draft a law on state protectionism for the press. This means preferential taxes, rent, and customs duties. A draft of such a law has been prepared. At a meeting between mass media leaders and V. Chernomyrdin it was decided to consider it at a Government Presidium session and then send it to the State Duma. But for the time being the premier confined himself to a subsidy of R110.4 billion.

The committee leadership is concerned by the fact that because of the high cost of polygraphic services many publications are having to be printed abroad, where prices are somewhat lower. We are being enticed by the cheese in the mousetrap. New jobs are being created abroad for Russian money, while our print shops are closing down and high-caliber specialists are leaving. In a year or two foreigners will increase their prices. Russian fugitives will be forced to return home and will be no better off than before, because by that time print shops will have become completely run down.

Media Complaints Tribunal Criticized as New Censor

PM2904130294 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 4

[Aleksandr Batygin commentary: "'Press Asked Not to Worry'"]

[Text] The Media Disputes Tribunal set up four months ago in accordance with the Russian Federation president's edict is designed, according to Paragraph 4 of the statute on it, to "help ensure the objectivity and accuracy of reporting in the mass media that touches on public interests." The pretext for the latest session of the tribunal, which was attended by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent, was the article carried in one of the March issues of EKSPRESS-GAZETA entitled "But People...Live!" devoted to the material and organizational provision for State Duma deputies. The lower house of parliament considered this newspaper article to be libelous. The State Duma's Legal Administration sent a statement to the tribunal attesting to the inaccuracy of the EKSPRESS-GAZETA article.

I. Zablotskiy, a staffer at the Legal Administration, referred in his statement to the Interim Statute on Ensuring the Activities of State Duma Deputies (it was published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 January), which stipulated the rights and privileges that deputies may enjoy. There was no mention of dachas, foreign trips, or personal physicians—as EKSPRESS-GAZETA had reported.

G. Dyakonov, leader of the Duma Press Center, who spoke after I. Zablotskiy, talked about breaches of professional standards by the EKSPRESS-GAZETA journalists, who had failed to check their facts.

For their part, the respondents, representing the newspaper's founders—the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" Joint-Stock Company and the "Segodnya" Limited Partnership—tried to use different arguments. They said that the article "But People...Live!" had used facts borrowed from other newspapers.

But Tribunal Chairman A. Vengerov and the tribunal members deemed these explanations unconvincing. First, EKSPRESS-GAZETA had not indicated the sources of the information it had cited. Moreover, the quoting was inaccurate and not verbatim, and the facts—lifted from various publications and collated—created a distorted impression of deputies. The article "But People...Live!" was deemed inaccurate and unobjective, and a crude breach of legal and technical norms. The newspaper's founders were instructed to relieve A. Kupriyanov of his duties as chief editor.

We have no grounds to leap to A. Kupriyanov's defense. Nonetheless, we are doing so, because, in our view, the Media Disputes Tribunal is turning more and more into a kind of censorship organ—a prototype of the notorious "troika"—where it is becoming the rule not to listen to the accused party. That was the case at the hearings on the article "Buds Swelling. For a Putsch?" in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA. The tribunal condemned the statement from the Russian Federation Press Committee without even inviting a representative to attend. Moreover, in a phone call to the chief editor of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, A. Vengerov said that they did not consider it necessary to invite committee workers to attend, the statement was sufficient....

The Statute on the Tribunal (Paragraph 12) states that it is entitled to reprimand a journalist who violates generally accepted ethical norms, and "in the event of their violating the legislation on the mass media, to raise the question before the relevant organ (leader) of established legislative proceedings being instituted against them." As we can see, there is no mention here of the tribunal's right to recommend the removal of the chief editor. And the tribunal was conceived so as to ensure that its activity would be based on moral and ethical grounds, without being a substitute for judicial and legal organs.

It is probably no accident that in its 4 February issue IZVESTIYA allowed itself to voice some doubts about the tribunal's good intentions: "....under certain circumstances the tribunal is also able to pursue a line of actually restricting press freedom."

At the hearing the EKSPRESS-GAZETA representatives suggested that it had been decided to begin with them so as to "stifle" the yellow press. A. Vengerov brushed this aside, claiming that there was no intention to "stifle" anyone and, in general, he did not want to listen to such arguments.

Nonetheless, has not the tribunal's ruling turned out to be far too politicized? The hearing saw the use of what was, to my mind, a very symptomatic phrase—"our patience is exhausted."

It has to be admitted that even the tone of the tribunal's ruling was surprising. It used the word "mockery" three times and the journalists were rebuked for their "basic ignorance" and their "unacceptable presentational style." I may not have to read this kind of ruling very often, but I would like to see a suitable tone of gravitas from such an important institution.

The tribunal is meant to settle media disputes. At the last hearing there was no dispute as such—it was clearly one-way traffic. You could not help getting the feeling that you were present at the birth of a media tribunal that had taken on all the "best" punitive traditions of agitprop.

Zhirinovskiy To Bring Legal Action Against Press

LD2904163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Leader of the Russian Liberal- Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy plans to bring an action against Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays and a number of newspapers.

His lawyer Sergey Belyak has prepared a "new set of suits" to protect the honor and dignity of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, says a report of the Liberal-Democratic faction's press service circulated here today.

In the opinion of Zhirinovskiy, the newspapers SEGODNYA, KURANTY and IZVESTIYA are guilty "of spreading German media's fake report on alleged reception of Honecker money by the Liberal-Democratic Party". The lawyer is sure each newspaper will have "to pay at least 200 million rubles".

The reason for the action against Chubays is his accusations of Zhirinovskiy of fascism. The report says the last straw was Chubays' interview with the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY newspaper.

PRAVDA Explains Background of Chief Editor's Replacement

PM2904150194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial Office report: "Editorial Saga"]

[Text] PRAVDA has already reported on what has been happening in and around our newspaper's editorial office of late. But the high emotions in the newspapers and on television and radio, fueled by Viktor Linnik and his team, are showing no signs of abating (in particular, yesterday's issue of NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA carried a manifestly biased article entitled "Viktor Linnik Has Yet To Occupy the Editor's Chair"). But the crux of the matter is in general terms simple: In early February the PRAVDA collective passed a vote of no confidence in the then Editor Viktor Linnik. It did so because the newspaper's leader was unable to ensure its regular publication and because an atmosphere of uncertainty about the future had been created in the editorial office. But the main reason was that the editor and his comrades-in-arms were ready to close the newspaper down for an indefinite period, which would have caused—and already was causing—irreparable damage to PRAVDA's prestige and would have jeopardized its continuing existence. However, on 6 April, Linnik was reinstated in his post by a court ruling—clearly errors in the organization of the collective's assembly played their part here. All right, PRAVDA's workers, as law-abiding people, agreed to implement the court judgment. But the very first steps toward reinstating the "chief" caused unrest in the collective. It turned out that Linnik was still prepared to close the newspaper down for a long while and he announced that the paper had split from its publisher, heedless of the damage that such a step could cause his editorial associates. Orders, including orders on staffing issues, were signed one after another, without any consultation at all with the editorial office, which under the editorial charter has the final say. The board of the journalists' organization then decided to call—strictly in accordance with the editorial charter—a combined meeting of the journalists' organization and the journalists' collective. It considered the question of the chief editor. Having agreed to implement the court ruling, the collective deemed it essential to hear Linnik. But the latter refused to attend the meeting or talks with his comrades. Linnik was released from the duties of chief editor by an overwhelming majority of votes (there were only four votes against). At that same meeting Aleksandr Ilin, a PRAVDA worker for 20 years, who had run the collective for the previous two months, was elected chief editor of PRAVDA. During that time 40 issues of the newspaper had ben published and it had developed a good working rhythm. That is why a decision in favor of Ilin was made, not because of any fiat from abroad, as certain "patriots" claim. It only remains to say that PRAVDA's editorial office is producing a newspaper, and our readers, judging by their responses, hold it in high esteem. But some former ambitious colleagues are doing all they can to damage PRAVDA by distorting the truth of the matter, operating on the principle that it does not matter if PRAVDA is in a bad way as long as they are okay. You will agree that a chief editor who fights for his job against the will of a collective which has voted him out looks strange. Perhaps it is time for our colleagues on other publications to realize that by their articles they are supporting not PRAVDA the newspaper (this hardly worries them) but a contender for the editorial chair?

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Calls Accord Treaty Signing Historic Event

LD2904141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—"The signing of the Treaty on Social Accord in Moscow on Thursday is a historical event for our country" declared Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Friday. He said that an absolute majority of the heads of political parties, socio-political organisations, territories and regions had signed the document.

Speaking before the beginning of his talks with South Korean Defence Minister Yi Pyong-tae, who is in Moscow on an official visit, Grachev expressed the hope that other socio-political organisations would sign the agreement in the near future. Those who did not sign the document will be regarded by Russians as forces "which are not striving towards accord and peace".

Touching on the May 1 Labor Day holiday, which last year was marked by a bloody confrontation between demonstrators and police, Grachev hoped that everything would be peaceful this time.

Grachev Speaks at Financial-Economic Meeting

MK2904112094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Our correspondent report: "Financial Service Looks for Ways of Armed Forces' Survival"]

[Text] On 27-28 April 1994, a meeting of the senior personnel of the Russian Federation Armed Forces' financial-economic service was held in Moscow. The meeting was prompted by the extremely difficult financial situation in the Army and the Navy, the need to look for extra ways to cut military expenditures, to choose priorities in spending, and to tighten economic austerity.

The meeting was attended by Army General P.S. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister; A.A. Kokoshin, his first deputy; State Tax Service chief V.V. Gusev, and other senior officials.

The defense minister pointed in his report to the financial- economic service's considerable contribution to the organization and preparation of new, highly efficient Armed Forces. At the same time, he stressed that in current conditions one of the main objective of commanders and chiefs of all ranks is the search for ways to cut spending and to make sure that all money appropriated for defense needs are spent efficiently. Given drastic cuts in appropriations for Army and Navy equipment, every ruble spent for these purposes should serve to strengthen the Armed Forces as much as possible. At the same time, it was noted that even in these difficult conditions concern for servicemen, civilian personnel, Armed Forces veterans, and their family members remains a priority objective.

The defense minister stressed that at a time of inflation and legislative confusion only the financial-economic service can securely shield the army from those who would like to cash in at its expense. Army Gen. Grachev said that financial staffers should be the first to help commanders solve financial and economic problems. Given that, the Defense Ministry leadership will do its utmost to boost the prestige of the financial-economic service and to enhance its status.

Participants in the meeting put a lot of questions to the State Tax Service chief, because relations between the service and the Armed Forces have yet to be fully straightened out. Even the cost of meat produced on military units' own subsidiary plots for the personnel mess list is often taxed locally. The military have been fined for delaying payments to the budget and pensions fund, which is absurd because the nonpayments have been caused by the sluggish and incomplete financing of the Armed Forces from the federal budget. The State Tax Service chief promised that these matters would be sorted out in the very near future.

Grachev Signs Agreement With Union of Servicemen

LD2904163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0954 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—An agreement on cooperation in solving questions of the social protection of military servicemen and the moral, spiritual, patriotic and aesthetic education of servicemen and the members of their families was signed on Thursday by the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Independent Union of Military Servicemen.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the union's central committee today that this took place during the signing of the Social Accord Treaty in the St. George's Hall of the Kremlin, during the course of which the sides were able to work out optimal approaches to resolving vital problems of the armed forces.

The sides believe that one of the basic tasks facing the state and society is the reshaping of the army and the navy, and they pledge to carry out joint work in shaping the Russian armed forces on a professional basis and in educating servicemen and their families, and also to revive and publicize the ancient spiritual and moral traditions of the Russian army and navy.

The Ministry of Defense and the independent servicemen's union agreed to carry out joint work on the social adaptation of citizens discharged from military service, on the construction of housing, the opening of new enterprises based on converted military facilities, the creation of new jobs and the retraining of servicemen in civilian professions.

The agreement points out that the sides pledge "to prevent the army and navy being dragged into political games, a reduction in the level of defense capability, and a weakening in the social protection of servicemen and citizens discharged to the reserve or into retirement, and their families". Joint preparations for the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War will also be carried out.

The agreement was signed by Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, and Mikhail Kolchev, chairman of the Central Committee of the Independent Union of Military Servicemen of the Russian Federation.

Defense Security Commission Urges More Funding

MK3004101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

[Pavel Koltsov report in the "Military Industrial Complex" column: "The Defense Industry Is Suffocating Without Money. This Undermines the Country's Security"]

[Text] On 28 April a session of the Russian Federation Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on Defense Security was held, presided over by First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin. The commission includes Valeriy Mikhaylov, first deputy economy minister; Andrey Vavilov, first deputy finance minister; Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency; Aleksandr Starovoytov, general director of the Federal Government Communication and Information Agency; deputy heads of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Nuclear Industry Ministry, the State Defense Industry Committee, the Russian State Machine Building Industry Committee, the Internal Affair Ministry, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Science Ministry, the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Liquidation of the Effects of Natural Disasters, and senior officials from the Defense Ministry and the General Staff.

The provision of modern armaments to the armed forces and the situation of enterprises carrying out state defense production orders were analyzed in detail.

Colonel General Anatoliy Sitnov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Armaments Department, said that on all the main weapon types the Defense Ministry has reduced the variety [tipazh] of equipment ordered by two to three times, seeking to standardize artillery systems, armored personnel carriers, tanks, transport and combat helicopters, and so forth. In spite of the extremely difficult financial situation, the Defense Ministry is so far managing to ensure progress in developing a number of major, leading-edge arms and defense technologies.

The participants in the session stated that owing to the chronic underfinancing of the Armed Forces needs, including in filling defense orders, arms production, and defense research and development projects, the worst difficult situation has occurred in the past two years.

The Interdepartmental Commission on Defense Security stressed that with such financing the long-term arms program and the plan for the organizational development of the Armed Forces just hang in the air. Commission members noted that a number of major presidential and government decisions are not being fulfilled. At the same time the commission pointed to the inadequacy of the legislative and normative basis in the defense sphere and proposed a number of concrete measures in this field.

The situation with funding the restructuring and diversification of defense enterprises is also very acute. With a sharp reduction in the arms procurement fund, the requisite funds for essential civil science-intense production and infrastructure development orders are not forthcoming.

"The development of infrastructures in all countries is primarily the concern of the state," Andrey Kokoshin stressed. "This is necessary both to the economy as a whole and to ensure the country's defense capability. The creation of modern transport, TV and communication facilities linking primarily the European and Asian parts of Russia must be among the top priorities in Russia's national security policy. At present an alarming situation is developing in this area."

Responding to questions from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA about the situation in the country's military industrial complex, Andrey Kokoshin noted the following.

The domestic economy has an acute need for "industrial growth areas" with an active role of the state and private capital. Such areas can be created primarily by increasing state orders to diversifying enterprises in the defense complex.

In Kokoshin's view, it is necessary not to reduce but in fact increase the production of civil aircraft equipped with new, more economical engines, as well as transport automation means, communication and TV satellites, railway rolling stock, and cargo and passenger vessels, using advanced space and aviation technology, and so forth. With the requisite funds allocated for this, for a certain period the budget deficit will increase but then, if things are properly organized, the tax base will grow, which will help overcome stagflation.

This should be accompanied by a more flexible and differentiated state policy in transportation tariffs because otherwise links between East and West will weaken. It is necessary to apply aerospace technology to creating new motor and railway facilities, the food industry, and many other spheres.

With an active and purposeful state policy, private Russian capital, which is so far taking a wait-and-see attitude, will actively flow into these spheres.

The Interdepartmental Commission on Defense Security has prepared specific assessments and proposals for the Russian Federation Security Council and Government to improve the financing of defense needs and ensure priority research and development projects, in accordance with the 19 January 1994 decision of the Russian Federation Security Council.

Army Pay Raise Could Herald 'Political Events'

PM2904103894 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1-4 May 94 p 2

[Igor Chernyak report: "Will Pay Go Up? If Only We Knew What It Will Entail..."]

[Text] According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's information, Boris Yeltsin intends to sign within the next few days a decision on a further increase in the salaries of servicemen in the Russian Armed Forces—by 50 percent, so it is supposed. One could only congratulate officers and generals in this connection, if it were not for one "but."

This is not the first time the president has demonstrated his concern for the Army. But, by a strange coincidence, similar decisions have hitherto been adopted on the eve of a possible exacerbation of the political situation in the country. For example, before the referendum of April 1993, when the troops were paid "arrears" of pay and more than 150 generalships were conferred on top officers. The situation was repeated shortly before the president's "strategic fall offensive," when the Ministry of Finance suddenly and "unexpectedly" paid servicemen the salaries for July-September, which had been delayed, with a coefficient of 1.8. At the time, comments appeared in newspapers in this connection, and there was talk of a special plan to influence the Army and a desire to boost its loyalty to the authorities on the eve of important political events.

Internal Affairs General, Others Said Arrested

MK2904123094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Maksim Isayev report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Charges Brought Against a High-Ranking Internal Affairs Ministry Official?"]

[Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned from knowledgeable sources that at the end of last week a criminal lawsuit was filed against Militia General I.A. Shilov, deputy chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry's Main Criminal Investigations Administration, on charges of his alleged ties with criminals. As a measure of preventive restriction, he signed a written undertaking not to abscond. At the same time, a number of other high-ranking Internal Affairs Ministry officials have been detained in connection with the case.

At the Internal Affairs Ministry Public Relations Center they have told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that they do not know anything about the matter.

Plesetsk Test Range Marks 30th Anniversary

PM2904143394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by S. Sokolova, identified by caption]

[Text] [Sokolova over video of truck-mounted missile travelling down a forest track] The Plesetsk test range is 30 years old. Since the disintegration of the Union it is the only Russian test range from which satellites as well as missiles can be launched. Incidentally, last year the world's first communications satellite was launched into orbit from here aboard an ICBM.

The latest missile systems have been tested here. Four of them now form the main component of the Russian missile forces and are used for alert duty.

Under START II, the Plesetsk computer and information center is processing and analyzing telemetric information on both its own and the U.S. launches. The United States, in turn, receives all the requisite information about our missile systems.

According to specialists, Plesetsk is the most hard-working test range in the world. Up to 70 percent of the launches of various satellites and rockets [raketa] carried out in the world take place here. True, as from this year the number of launches has sharply decreased. The reasons for this are many, but the main one is the shortage of funds. This is why commercial satellites will also be launched from Plesetsk in the future. Fortunately, applications from Russian and Western companies have already been received. [video shows various closeups of truck-mounted missiles on forest track, soldiers changing equipment, views of computer center equipment, aerial view of Plesetsk area from helicopter]

Production of Tu-160 Strategic Aircraft Discontinued

LD3004120994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The Gorbunov Aviation Association in Kazan has discontinued production of the strategic missile-carrying Tu-160 [Tupolev] aircraft. As a RIA correspondent was told at the association's directorate, production was discontinued by direct instruction of the Russian president.

Military Procuracy Official on Corruption

OW3004123394 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Interview with Deputy Military Procurator General V.M. Kruk by correspondent Igor Serebryakov; place and date not given; from the "Aty-Baty" program]

[Text] [Serebryakov] As a person who deals directly with the subject, could you tell us whether corruption in the armed forces is increasing or decreasing?

[Kruk] It is difficult to talk about the decrease of crime in the military or in society. It continues to grow—perhaps not at the rate that it did in previous years, but it is increasing. And because the armed forces are part of society, as they used to say, the troubles and hardships taking place in society are transmitted to the armed forces. It is true that the general situation is a negative one, and it continues to worsen in society at large, and this also has a negative effect on the armed forces. Crime is on the increase, and the military procurator's office currently is handling several ongoing investigations against several high-ranking officials on charges of corruption, bribery, unauthorized commercial ties, self-enrichment, and so forth. These cases are about to be publicized. It will be possible to reveal them in the near future, but it is still detrimental to talk about them because of tactical considerations. There are such cases, and we will concentrate on them. We investigated several times more cases like this type last year than during all preceding years. Military procuracy organs are more independent today from any kind of pressure from ministerial departments than ever before. We obey only the prosecutor general and the law, and I do not know of any case in the past few years win which pressure produced any discernible result.

[Serebryakov] So what is going on, then? I have recently had an opportunity to tour the hot spots: Stepanakert, Georgia, Abkhazia, and so on. I am a military man myself, and I can clearly distinguish regulation-issue Soviet Army weaponry from that which is not. In all of these wars, hundreds and thousands of people are being killed by weapons which were supplied to both gangs and irregular forces of these republics through informal channels from the depots of the [former] Soviet army. I think that if someone were not selling these weapons illegally, these terrible conflicts on the perimeter of our country would not exist. Young power structures in the process of being formed do not have enough money to buy such weapons, so how did they get there, how did this happen, and who is responsible?

[Kruk] The myths and legends claiming that all the gangs and bands, all the warring sides are armed exclusively with military equipment and weapons from the Russian armed forces are unsubstantiated. The thing is, after the USSR collapsed, enormous quantities of equipment and arms remained on the territories of the former republics. Let us remember the weapons depots in Agdam.

[Serebryakov] But they belonged to the Soviet army.

[Kruk] They later came under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan, which privatized them. All of this [equipment] is being used for fighting now and will continue to be used for this purpose for a long time to come.

Let us cite the situation in Georgia. After the well-known events of 1991 which had to do with Georgia becoming a sovereign state, gangs of every kind had one goal only: to steal anything that was not nailed down. This meant weapons first and foremost, but also equipment, drugs, and other valuables. Let us remember that over 600 armed attacks against Russian units deployed in Georgia took place during 1992-93. The only goal [of these attacks] was capturing arms and equipment.

[Serebryakov] The stock at the Agdam depots could not have lasted for more than three months of fighting. So they used it all up in the first three months of the war. But where do they take it from after that? There is only one possibility: One either pumps it in from Iran or from Afghanistan. But I think that it is coming from the north.

[Kruk] The Agdam depots are not the only ones of their kind. Moreover, we must not forget that arms arrive at the hot spots not only from Russia but also from neighboring countries, such as Armenia, the Dniestr region, Ukraine, and several others.

Let us remember the case, which was scandalous at the time, of the dachas in Krasnogorsk and Domodedovo. The top echelon of the Defense Ministry was accused of accomplishing the illegal privatization of dachas. There was a lot of talk and noise concerning this, and demands for blood from every side. Time passed, the dust settled, all the material is in the courts, suits have been brought, but the cases still have not been settled. But this is not our fault.

[Serebryakov] But why? What is the matter? Did the courts fail to adopt a decision, or maybe there are not enough facts?

[Kruk] There might be enough facts, but the legal basis is not always appropriate for the situations we encounter today. After all, the situation changes, and what might have been illegal two or three years ago has acquired a legal status today. Everyone still experiences a housing shortage. We are building housing with the help of Germany, Finland, and the Baltic republics. It is a different matter that the housing does not always go to those for whom it is intended. Yes, there are instances of abuses.

[Text] [Serebryakov] Are these serious?

[Kruk] As long as there are shortages, there will be abuses. There is no avoiding it. This is one of life's axioms. If there is something that has to be divided between people, and if there are more people than there are pieces of cake, someone always will get preferential treatment.

[Serebryakov] Is the procurator's office today pursuing cases involving housing matters?

[Kruk] There are quite a few.

[Serebryakov] Will some conclusions be drawn?

[Kruk] Undoubtedly. Extensive reports are being prepared for the defense minister and the government. These questions are raised continuously. Not a quarter goes by.... [Kruk pauses] We present this issue to different levels several times a year. Yes, we take measures to solve certain problems, but new ones crop up.

[Serebryakov] If there is some barrier preventing all these corrupt structures from developing, then it must be the military procurator's office first and foremost. How do you publicize your work to the people?

[Kruk] An investigator or a team of investigators carry out work regarding a certain person in some region and in a concrete garrison or department. Only those who are connected to this case know about it. Several months usually go by before a case is completed. The unit that this person was serving in is usually informed, the command is notified, and the appropriate information—to the effect that an investigation of the case established this and that and that the circumstances which made it possible were such and such—is distributed up to and including the defense minister. A set of measures is proposed to prevent such incidents in the future. It is a different matter that all of this is not always widely publicized. The regional or national public does not know that a certain case has been investigated and that those found guilty were justly punished. I think that this is partially our fault, too, in that we do not address the mass media a lot. It might be because the alliance between the mass media and the investigative organs has not been very productive. Both sides are to blame for this, and correspondents printing such material do not always interpret it correctly. Sometimes there is just talk, slander, and incorrect interpretations, which distort the whole meaning. There is a lot of repercussions and noise....

[Serebryakov, interrupting] Well, they are looking for a sensation, but actually, they just obstruct the case.

[Kruk] Or they are trying to dramatize things just for the effect of it. In real life, it is much more prosaic, but they wish for something big and heroic. In practice, everything is much simpler.

'Molniya' Launching Commercial Aerospace Consortium

PM2904141794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 5

[Vladimir Khrustov report under the "Projects" rubric: "Money for Space Will Yield Space Technologies"]

[Text] The "Molniya" Science and Production Association, where "Buran"—our own version of the space shuttle—was designed, is embarking on the first financial-industrial aerospace consortium in Russia. This information was relayed to journalists who had been invited to the famous firm by Aleksandr Bashilov, general director of the science and production association, and his deputy Konstantin Borovoy, director of the new commercial project.

Since it is simply impossible at present to support the aerospace industry at the proper level within the framework of the state budget, it has been decided to pool the efforts of our best aerospace firms with the financial potential of Russia's commercial structures. "Molniya's" specialists regard the following as the principal long-term projects with a good chance of success: A multipurpose aerospace system and an orbiting spaceplane launched from a delivery vehicle rather than a space center, a function that could be performed by the An-225 (the "Mriya"). Incidentally, the science and production association plans to develop its own heavy aircraft with a much bigger cargo carrying capacity than "Mriya." This system, which would not require a space center, would enable us to place payloads in orbit from virtually any point on the globe, thus making orbital payload delivery five to seven times cheaper. "Molniya" is already preparing to offer customers a series of light business aircraft, one of which—the six-seater "Molniya-1" air taxi—is successfully undergoing flight tests. A total of 20 series aircraft have already been manufactured by the Samara plant.

It is expected that the incorporation documents for the establishment of the Russian Aerospace Company could be signed this June. The first profit, Konstantin Borovoy believes, could show up literally within the next few months: The "Molniya" Science and Production Association already has a competitive product both on the domestic and the world market. In addition to the aerospace technology already mentioned, it includes advanced technologies and new materials, for example adhesives which were developed during work on "Buran." Moreover, most of this "know-how" is extremely adaptable and can be applied in a number of sectors of the national economy.

Federal Assembly

Council Will Not 'Hamper' Yeltsin Reforms

PM2904181194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

["Appeal by the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly to the Russian Federation President in Connection With the Russian Federation President's Message to the Federal Assembly "On Strengthening the Russian State"]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

A thorough study of the Russian Federation president's message to the Federal Assembly "On Strengthening the Russian State (Main Areas of Domestic and Foreign Policy)" has been completed in the committees and commissions of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly. Specific measures have been outlined, whose implementation via the Federation Council will guarantee steady cooperation among all the branches of power in the interests of democracy and prosperity in Russia.

We welcome the political desire expressed by the Russian Federation president in his message to further pursue the reforms course and unite all constructive forces in society with a view to carrying out systematic, joint, and creative work for the good of the country and its citizens in order to strengthen the Russian state.

We view the pact on achieving civil accord in Russia as an important step in implementing the Russian Federation president's message, enabling us to establish democratic control over the commitments taken on by all branches of power, parties, and social organizations and movements.

We share the Russian Federation president's view that in Russia today there is no firmer basis for achieving civil accord in society, emerging from the crisis, and successfully continuing progressive transformations than the Russian Federation Constitution, adopted by nationwide vote in December 1993. Our task is to realize in practice the full potential of our state's fundamental law.

In this connection the Federation Council supports the proposal by the Russian Federation president to establish a united constitutional commission and a united working group to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of legislative activity. In formulating plans for legislative work, the Federation Council will be guided exclusively by its own constitutional powers and the standing orders of the first convocation of the Federation Council formulated on the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution.

The message rightly stresses that power in a rule-of-law state is bound by the law. The place and extremely important role of the Federal Assembly and its chambers within the existing political system in Russia is determined by this fact. We share the concern expressed in the message that practical mechanisms for promoting democracy in Russia are underdeveloped. At the present time work has been initiated by the Federation Council within the limits of the chambers' powers as enshrined by the Russian Federation Constitution to create effective legal mechanisms of power within the Russian state both at the federal level and in the components of the Federation.

The Federation Council supports the Russian Federation president's stance regarding the need to find a sensible relationship between the speed of reforms and the real social cost of the reforms, bringing into play all available reserves including effective state regulation compatible with market mechanisms.

We believe it necessary at federal, regional, and local level to urgently implement a set of measures to achieve actual realization of the provisions of the Russian Federation president's message.

We favor constructive and reliable cooperation among all the federal power structures. We hereby announce our refusal to countenance any contradictions dictated by the interests of political opportunism that hamper the normal exercise of the Russian Federation president's powers and those of the Russian Federation Government.

At the same time we are entitled to count on a similarly responsible attitude from the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government regarding problems on which the Federation Council focuses its attention. To date, unfortunately, there have been several occasions when appeals by the Federation Council on extremely acute problems of economics and politics have not met with an appropriate response from the executive branch.

For all the different peoples who live in our state, regardless of their ethnic, religious, and linguistic groupings, this country is their common home. None of them should be placed in an unequal legal or moral position. It is particularly important to stress this fact today, when the country is making the transition from a monopoly ideology to cultural diversity. In accordance with the spirit of the Russian Federation president's message, the Federation Council is exercising all its constitutional powers to restore, strengthen, and develop the values of this Russian superethnic community which is unique in the world.

In its daily cooperation with the State Duma, the Russian Federation president, and the Russian Federation Government, the Federation Council intends to actively establish constructive political, economic, scientific, and cultural ties among all components of the Federation and to strengthen the planned accord among political parties and national, social, and political movements.

Once again stressing its fundamental agreement with the spirit and letter of the message, the Federation Council insistently requests the Russian Federation president and Russian Federation Government to make every possible effort to encourage strict observance of the provisions and standards of the nationally adopted Russian Federation Constitution, the Federation Treaty, and Russian Federation laws, and to create favorable conditions for the rigorous implementation of these provisions and norms.

We believe it necessary to speed up the preparation of a program of practical actions across the entire spectrum of domestic and foreign policy areas formulated in the Russian Federation president's message.

The Federation Council sees the path to strengthening the Russian state lying through united political will, civil accord, and cooperation among all the branches of power and the citizens of Russia, and it will make every effort to encourage rapid progress along this path.

[Signed] The Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly

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State Duma Recommends Rejection of Draft Budget

LD2904142494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] On Wednesday the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy drew up a recommendation on a draft of the Russian federal budget for 1994. It proposes that the document should be rejected because it does not take into account a large number of the proposals made by the State Duma committees. The draft budget, which was sent to the State Duma, was elaborated by the government in accordance with a decision of the lower chamber of the parliament of 15 April. The committee's main arguments show that the amendments introduced into the budget strengthen the orientation of the government's economic policy on the preferential development of raw material industries without solving problems in other spheres of the economy.

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin on Need For Unity, Consolidation

LD2904174694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1640 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Goncharov]

[Text] Orenburg April 29 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin came here on Friday to participate in festivities on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Orenburg Province.

"Russia needs uniting and consolidating all forces now as never before - the fact is reflected in the treaty on social accord and we had to cover such a long way towards its signing," Chernomyrdin said.

"The government is to accept much of the responsibility for the fulfillment of the treaty and it will do its best. As a head of government, I am responsible for the fate of our homeland before the people and Russia. We shall overcome difficulties. We need (to turn Russia into) a country where a man will live happily. And the new Russia already takes shape," he added.

According to Chernomyrdin, he believes in his government and does not map out to replace or fire anyone; its political course remains unchanged.

The Russian prime minister visited a gas-processing plant and discussed ways to increase the volume of oil and gas extraction, use new and old bore-holes effectively, speed up the processing and secure the ties inside the fuel-and-energy complex.

Governor Removed by Yeltsin Voted Duma Chairman

LD3004034794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Eduard Rossel, the ex-governor of Sverdlovsk Oblast, has been elected chairman of the oblast Duma. Eighteen out of 28 deputies voted for him. Rossel was dismissed from his post as governor by an edict of the Russian president in November 1993 for overstepping the limits of his powers in connection with the proclaiming of the Urals Republic. Rossel considers switching over to a regional policy in the real sense the main priority of his work as the Duma chairman. This means the oblast being able to decide independently what to do with its material and financial resources and being the owner of its natural resources.

Merger of Moscow, Moscow Oblast Said in Works

MK3004072094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

["NG" report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Merger in the Cards Once Again"]

[Text] According to information NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has received from sufficiently informed sources, there may soon appear a presidential edict on uniting Moscow and Moscow Oblast to form a single "Moscow Region." It is supposed to appoint as its head mayor of the capital Yuriy Luzhkov, who would also receive the rank of vice premier of the Russian Government. A draft of the edict is being prepared in corresponding subdivisions of City Hall, and Boris Yeltsin's agreement to sign it has virtually been secured, according to information from the same sources. Viktor Chernomyrdin, according to confidential information, does not like such plans. The reaction by Moscow Oblast administration head Anatoliy Tyazhlov is yet unknown.

Vice Premier Visits Region To Preempt Social Upheaval

MK3004125094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Yaroslavl—Russian Federation Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, who arrived at the oblast center 27 April on a working visit, went to a number of industrial enterprises and met with the leadership of the oblast administration. During the meetings the employment problem was discussed. Mr. Yarov explained his visit to Yaroslavl by the government's intention to study the situation in the regions and try and "see, in good time, the line beyond which a social explosion could follow."

Changes in Mapping of Ossetia, Ingushetia Emergency Zone

MK2904111094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Natalya Pachegina report under the "Northern Caucasus" rubric: "Federation Council Confirms President's Edict. Nazran and Vladikavkaz Dissatisfied"]

[Text] The closed session of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, whose work schedule included the question of confirming the Russian president's edict on extending the state of emergency in the zone of the Ossetia-Ingushetia conflict, was preceded by a meeting of Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko and the presidents of Ossetia and Ingushetia with Yuriy Baturin, the Russian president's national security aide. The fourth man, as is rumored, was Sergey Filatov, the president's chief of staff. The interlocutors, as an informed source has confirmed, agreed that the amendments to the well-known edict of 4 April made by the Russian Federation president should be confirmed by the Federation Council. The edict excluded the Republic of North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon population centers of Oktyabrskoye, Kambileyevskoye, Sunzha, and Sputnik, which geographically divide the state of emergency zone into two parts, from the list of villages whose territories were affected by the state of emergency rule. The "amendment" to President Yeltsin's edict that followed in the wake of the Ingush citizens convoy attacked in Vladikavkaz on 12 April introduced a measure of logic in the operation of the state of emergency rule on the territory of Prigorodnyy Rayon: all four villages have been again "returned" to the state of emergency zone. This Federation Council decision brought no satisfaction to the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. In the opinion of Akhsarbek Galazov, the edict extending the state of emergency rule brings about no serious change in the situation in the conflict zone. He is echoed by Yuriy Biragov, North Ossetia's Supreme Soviet chairman, who also thinks the Federation Council should have taken into consideration the proposal of the Provisional Administration, headed by Vladimir Lozovoy, that the State of Emergency zone be extended by including in it the Ingush territories. The Ingush villages of Galashki, Muzhichi, and Ali-Yurt, contiguous on North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon, would have created, Biragov thinks, a real security zone on the borders of the two republics. Vladikavkaz representatives also disagree with the opinion prevailing in Moscow and in the Provisional Administration that the republican law and order organs are unable to be on top of the situation on the territory entrusted to them. Owing to this, Vladikavkaz cannot recognize the primacy of the Provisional Administration's powers in the State of Emergency zone over those of the regional administration organs.

Neither is Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev quite satisfied with the extension of the State of Emergency zone. His final objective—the introduction of federal rule in the State of Emergency zone—remains, as before, unrealized. Ingushetia's Nazran and Malgobek rayons, which are part of the State of Emergency zone, have been once again thus wrongly included, Aushev thinks, because their population poses no threat to neighboring Ossetia. The Federation Council's confirmation of the edict on the conflict zone, in the opinion of the president from Nazran, merely corrects the mistake made in the 4 April edict.

In the meantime, on 27 April Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a Russian Government decree expanding the powers of Provisional Administration head Vladimir Lozovoy on the territory of Mozdok, Prigorodnyy (Republic of North Ossetia), Malgobek, and Nazran rayons (Republic of Ingushetia). Under the decree, orders and directives of the Provisional Administration head are mandatory for federal organs of power of the Russian Federation, as well as for the executive organs of state power of federation components.

N. Ossetian President on Meetings with Russian Leaders

LD2904180994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 29 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 29 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin intends to take part in the celebrations on the occasion of the 220th anniversary of Ossetia's voluntary joining of Russia and the 210th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Vladikavkaz. This was reported by President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov at his meeting with members of the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the republic, and heads of the local self- government.

Akhsarbek Galazov said the Russian president stressed that these memorable dates in the life of the multinational people of North Ossetia should be widely celebrated in the Russian Federation.

"I informed Boris Yeltsin of the situation in the zone under state of emergency, the talks between the presidents and official delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia which began in the city of Nalchik on the initiative of the leadership of North Ossetia, and the concrete steps being made by the Ossetian side for the stabilization of the situation in the region," the president of North Ossetia noted.

Akhsarbek Galazov also met with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with whom he discussed a wide range of issues concerning the economic and social development of North Ossetia.

Speaking on the results of the closed meeting of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation which considered the situation in the zone under state of emergency, Akhsarbek Galazov said that he categorically rejected the idea of the establishment of federal ruling in the Prigorodnyy district. He believes that this is a deadlock situation which may lead to a new tragedy in North Caucasus. The main direction in the settlement of relations between the peoples of North Ossetia and Ingushetia must be peaceful negotiations.

According to the president of North Ossetia, it is necessary to continue the talks with the Ingush side. "The dialogue between the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, and official delegations of the two republics is yet another step on the road to peace and accord, and the possibility to untie a tight knot of problems," Akhsarbek Galazov pointed out.

The date of the third round of talks in Nalchik is due to be fixed by the working groups of the two republics.

Chechnya Charges Moscow With Shielding Crime Groups

MK3004130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechnya Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev announced a possible meeting and signing of a treaty between the Russian Federation leadership and official Groznyy representatives. Mr. Yandarbiyev noted that "Elections in the Chechen state are possible only after a decision has been made by the leadership of the Ichkeria Republic, within the time frame established by the Constitution of Chechnya."

The head of the Chechnya security department has charged Russia's law enforcement bodies with criminals action aimed at undermining the republic's economy. In an official letter sent to the leadership of Russian Federation power structures, Sultan Geliskhanov reports that stable criminal groups, which for a long time have engaged in oil smuggling, are taking refuge in Russia.

The Crimean Republic has expressed a wish for comprehensive cooperation with the Chechen Republic. This is stated in a letter received by President Dudayev from the Crimean administration. The reaction by the Chechen leadership is so far unknown.

Shakhray Speaks at Tatarstan PRES Opening

944F0637B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Young Party Elects Real Values"]

[Text]**A presentation of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES) in the Republic of Tatarstan was held yesterday at the Kazan national cultural center.**

There are more than enough of all sorts of presentations happening in Kazan. True, it is not always that they are attended by politicians of such caliber as the Russian Federation's deputy prime minister, Sergey Shakhray. Putting aside all business for a day, he came to Tatarstan to "bless" another regional branch of his party.

This visit, of course, was not to the taste of activists of some political organizations of a nationalist orientation: There were pickets at the entrance to the former Lenin memorial, with posters whose content the population has become accustomed to lately.

The introductory word at the presentation was delivered by Insaf Sayfullin, chairman of the board of the PRES regional branch. Judging by all signs, he does not have to worry about party affairs—they are on the upturn. When the PRES registered two months ago at the Republic of Tatarstan's Ministry of Justice, it had 67 Tatarstan residents as members. Now the ranks have more than doubled.

A number of [line(s) missing], heads of major industrial enterprises, and members of the technical intelligentsia reacted positively to the new entrant in the republic's political arena. Some even joined the PRES; some are still looking with an appraising eye at the political organization which proclaims itself a national conservative party adhering to traditional values: state, family, property, morality. After the signing of a treaty between Russia and Tatarstan, even many officials accept with a great deal of understanding the main ideological tenet of PRES—federalism, the strengthening of the Russian Federation through a diversity of forms of regional economic, political, national, and cultural development.

The young party probably will gain new supporters after S. Shakhray's speech yesterday, in which he outlined the PRES' main task as forming a concept of civil accord. His party's like-thinkers are represented in the Federation Council, and 30 State Duma deputies follow PRES aims. Neither can one call its position in the Russian Federation government shaky—four ministers are active members of the party. All this enables the party, in Deputy Prime Minister S. Shakhray's opinion, to conduct a purposeful regional policy using economic and treaty mechanisms.

An announcement was made at the presentation that PRES has proposed a concrete draft of a confederation treaty, which envisages creating within the CIS framework a "core" consisting of three or four states ready for greater integration in matters of economics, collective security, and coordinated foreign policy. In the author's conception [line(s) missing], it is possible to form a confederation that envisages equal subjects voluntarily joining into a commonwealth. The key to the problem is how this process will proceed: on the basis of mutual understanding or "a la Zhirinovskiy"—by way of the absorption and destruction of republics and turning them into provinces.

Tatarstan's Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev predicted a good future for the PRES. In particular, he said that high political and legal culture are in Tatarstan's interests. We should not forget that not a single of the most complex issues at state level can be resolved without the consent of all sides. And it is good that a party whose activities revolve around the regional theme is currently strengthening its positions. This will help us to act together, to understand one another.

A press conference followed, where detailed replies were provided to journalists' questions. For instance, in S. Shakhray's opinion, very soon three directions will play a decisive role in the Russian Federation: [words indistinct], which will include communists; conservatives—on the basis of the PRES; and liberals, but spearheaded by Russia's Choice rather than the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]. Time will tell whether this prediction will come true.

Tatarstan Communists To Back Anti-Bureaucratic Front

MK3004131094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Kazan—A leader of the initiative group of the Anti- Bureaucratic Front of Tataria has announced that the Communist Party of the Tatar Republic is going to affiliate with this public- political association. According to him, negotiations are also in progress with the Kazan branch of the Russian Social Democratic Party.

Luzhkov Promises 'Adequate Measures' To Keep May Day Order

PM2904171194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Undated comment by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov: "I Will Allow No One To Cast a Cloud Over the Festivities in Moscow"]

[Text] It is gratifying that those who were only recently parading extremist inclinations are beginning to come to their senses. The political sphere has nowadays become more stable. In line with the standards of civilized, democratic countries, deputies' factions and political parties have formed which consolidate society and support exclusively parliamentary methods of fighting for power. A proof of this is the signing by all the leading political forces of the Treaty on Social Accord.

Those political forces linked with extremism which refused to participate in the treaty are undoubtedly losing the support of society. Unfortunately, it was necessary to go through the bloody events of 1 May last year and the clashes of 3-4 October 1993 in order for the madmen to realize that this is no method for resolving political problems in Russia. Our country will never again bring itself to obtain rulers through methods of bloody dictatorship. We have had quite enough revolutions. We need victories only on the front line of winning prestige among people through concrete deeds.

Nevertheless, in the light of last year's bitter experience the forces of law and order have been primed in sufficiently large numbers for the holding of the May Day celebrations. I am confident that they will ensure peace and quiet for muscovites. But we are ready to take control and adopt appropriate measures against disturbers of public order. There are fears of a rash of terrorist acts more than of a plan of concerted actions by gunmen. But today they should understand that their plans will not go unresisted. I am an optimist, but readiness to oppose extremists is an excellent thing in a mayor of Moscow. We are ready for any changes in the situation in the capital. And if anyone wants to cast a cloud over the holiday or to break the law, adequate measures and forces will be activated. At any rate, I personally will be at work on all four free days.

Over 3,000 Attend May Day Rally in Nalchik

LD0105153394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1209 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] More than 3,000 people took part in the May-Day demonstration in Nalchik on Sunday. The demonstrators marched along the city's central street from the square commemorating the 400th anniversary of Kabarda's joining Russia over to Lenin Square. Among the demonstrators were Prime Minister of Kabardino-Balkaria Georgiy Cherkesov, Vice President Gennadiy Gubin and other leaders of the republic.

The meeting in front of the government building was addressed by President of Kabardino-Balkaria Valeriy Kokov, who said that ethnic peace and agreement had been preserved and that May-Day celebrations were marked by optimism and confidence in the future. He also said that the embezzlement of national property had been prevented, the labor potential saved and social support provided for pensioners, disabled people and low-incomes groups.

Speaking about the situation in the Russian Federation, Kokov said that the adoption of the new constitution last December had marked the beginning of a new process of sociopolitical stabilization. "The bitter fate of the Soviet Union, whose break up filled the hearts of million of people with pain, will not befell on the Russian Federation," he said.

He also welcomed the signing of the Civic Accord agreement as a stabilizing factor which meets the interests of the people, who are tired of political confrontation.

In conclusion, Kokov congratulated Christians on Easter and expressed hope that religious confessions will help strengthen the unity of Kabardino-Balkaria and preserve ethnic peace.

After the meeting festivities were held involving professional and amateur performers.

Martime Kray Fears Higher Electricity Rate

944F0637A Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by V. Pavlov: "Government Knockout: Beginning 4 May a Kilowatt of Electricity for the Population Will Cost 63.6 Rubles"]

[Text] This piece of news was delivered the day before yesterday at a scheduled meeting of the kray council of heads of administration by Dalenergo representative Yu. Ivanov. It left those present feeling shell-shocked. As it turned out, Government Decree No. 352, signed on 22 April, had not been coordinated with the regions, including Maritime Kray. So far, preferential rates, wrangled out by the kray administration with incredible difficulty, remain in effect. It was only thanks to this that the kray was able to survive a harsh winter without extraordinary losses.

The government's new knockout, which repeals all preferences for Maritime Kray, may be a mortal blow for us. Enterprises and organizations already owe 178 billion rubles [R] in unpaid electric power bills. Of this, R98 billion is to be reimbursed from the federal budget. Now it is frankly giving the kray the finger.

The chronic lack of money stemming from nonpayments and the massive decline in production is resulting in a considerable drop in budget revenue. At the same time, expenditures are growing, especially in the social sphere. S. Tereshkov, chief of the kray administration's financial department, emphasized at the council that budget revenue from kray sources is less than half as large as the expense part. Therefore it is quite realistic that the central government once again will freeze wages in budget-financed spheres.

In short, the situation is more than alarming. As to our fuel and energy sector, it is, without exaggeration, catastrophic. Repairs of equipment at central heat delivery systems alone require R403 billion. Practically none of this money is available. Despite the fact that with the advent of warm weather electricity use has dropped by 40 percent, no accumulation of fuel is taking place. Moreover, reserves are dropping.

Beginning 22 April suppliers stopped shipping coal to the kray. It is quite possible that as early as May restrictions on consumers will be introduced. The kray commission on emergency situations will have to search in the nearest future for cardinal ways out of the critical situation.

"If the government sets a price of R120 per kw for electricity delivered to enterprises, this will mean death to the Khrustalninsk mining and enrichment combine, as well as other industrial collectives," A. Akifyev, deputy head of Kavalerovskiy Rayon administration, said without hesitation. "They will never recover."

Is there a way out of the lethal situation into which our "dear" central government has pushed Maritime Kray and the rest of the country? Replying to this question, I. Lebedinets, chairman of the kray emergency commission, said that there is only one solution: mobilize all production and human resources in Maritime Kray into an all-people's construction project, which has never let us down in the past, and increase production of our own coal. Nobody will save us except ourselves.

No one would object to this idea, but there is catastrophically little time left for its implementation. If we are late... It is frightening to think of the consequences.

International Affairs

Security Service Averts Possible Moscow Attack

LD0105205594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Employees of Ukraine's Security Service have conducted an operation in Mariupol to seize and expose a group of foreign citizens, who had intended to commit a terrorist act in Moscow. For this they had made powerful explosive devices with a long fragmentation range. Many of the details of the operation are for the moment not subject to publication. But, as Colonel Dmytro Chornousenko, deputy chief of Ukraine's Security Service directorate in Donetsk Oblast, stated, it has been established that the detainees had intended to carry out a terrorist act in one of the embassies located in Russia's capital.

Israel's Peres Visit Postponed Due To Speed of PLO Deal

LD2904221694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Israel, arrived in Ukraine's capital today. According to information from competent sources, this visit is an unplanned one and its purpose is to clarify two issues: The postponement of the date of the visit by Shim'on Peres, Israel's foreign affairs minister, which had been planned for 4-5 May, and clarification of the situation with the Jewish "Sochnut" agency.

This agency was set up in 1929 as the executive body of the World Zionist Organization, which represents Jews of the land of Israel at talks with the British authorities, foreign governments, and international organizations. Today, this is the main link uniting Israel with Jews of the diaspora. In Ukraine, "Sochnut" implements several educational programs, in accordance with which children from our state have the opportunity to study directly in Israel. Because several students expressed a wish not to return home, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice issued a note of protest.

"The idea of the Israeli state is based on the repatriation of Jews from the diaspora, Tzvi Magen, Israel's ambassador to Ukraine, reported. We cannot refuse a single person of Jewish descent citizenship of our country. At the same time, Ukrainian legislation envisages the freedom to choose one's place of residence for each person. There are no problems with Sochnut. There are nuances there." By nuances Israeli diplomacy understands the uncoordinated legislation of both states in certain issues, particularly educational ones. Apropos of this, Vasyl Onopenko, Ukraine's minister of justice, met a group of Israeli lawyers today, headed by Hayim Klugman, director general of Israel's Justice Ministry. Tzvi Magen and Yuriy Shcherbak also met today. Israel's ambassador to Ukraine reported that the visit by Shim'on Peres, Israel's minister of foreign affairs, which interalia was to have resolved the "Sochnut" situation, had been postponed to approximately the middle of June. "This does not signify misunderstandings between Ukraine and Israel, but is only a result of the excessively speedy signing of peace with the Palestinians, which cannot take place without the minister of foreign affairs."

According to information from Tzvi Magen, a visit to Ukraine by Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's prime minister, who visited Moscow a week ago, is also planned for the summer.

Sevastopol Official Urges Settlement of Fleet Issue

LD2904140594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2220 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 28 Apr— Mykola Hlushkov, chairman of the Sevastopol State Administration, has called on the Ukrainian and Russian presidents urgently to settle the issue of the Black Sea Fleet. He deems it necessary that city leaders should also take part in negotiations, which should address the question of purposive economic assistance to the region from the states that use the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol for their military bases. In his appeal, Mykola Hlushkov says that the situation in the region is being further exacerbated because of lack of objective information and comments by Ukrainian and Russian chief officials regarding actions by the two states' defense ministers.

'Not Much Certainty' That Talks With Russia Will Resume

PM2904142594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Golub: "The Fleet Is Not a Hunk of Bread, and You Cannot Divide It in Half. L. Kravchuk in Search of 'Historical Enemy'"]

[Text] Lvov—As might have been expected, the failure of the Ukrainian-Russian talks on the parameters of the division of the Black Sea Fleet is being actively discussed in Ukraine. Rejecting accusations of revising the Moscow agreements previously reached by the presidents of the two states, Ukrainians are pinning the entire responsibility for the conflict on the Russian side.

Naturally, the fuss that has been raised does not help the majority of Ukrainian citizens, who are already following all the divisions ensuing from the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement with great pain, to remain calm. The only people who have benefitted from the tension have perhaps been the right-wing, radically inclined nationalist forces. With support from the Kiev authorities, they have tried to unleash an appropriate propaganda campaign. They are presenting the essence of the problem as the eviction of sovereign Ukraine from its own territory in Crimea through the "occupation" of the latter by the Russian Federation Navy. The Ukrainian leadership is being blamed for serious mistakes in respect of the Black Sea Fleet and Crimea, which have "made it possible to turn the peninsula into the bridgehead of Russia's permanent threat of aggression against the Ukrainian state."

The Ukrainians are also very pained about the results of the meeting between Pavel Grachev and admirals and officers of the Black Sea Fleet staff and the promotion in rank of the commander of Cheleken who, according to the Ukrainian side, took stolen radiological equipment worth millions of dollars out of Odessa. Moscow's attempts to include Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov in the negotiating process are also being received in a mixed way, to say the least. This attempt may help intensify separatist moods in Crimea and reinforce Meshkov's own position.

The national democrats are demanding the adoption of resolute and tough measures by official Kiev. They insist on restricting the topics for discussion during the Ukrainian-Russian talks to no more than the division of the Black Sea Fleet, with the gradual withdrawal of all Russian military structures from Ukrainian territory, which, in their opinion, is the main object of the claims of the neighboring state. By trying to impose on Russia a territory outside Ukraine by way of a permanent main base for the Black Sea Fleet, for example Novorossiysk, people here are trying to create problems for Moscow with the so-called "floating stock." The Ukrainian authorities do not agree with the assertion made by P. Grachev during a press conference that the Ukrainian Navy has seized 126 Black Sea Fleet ships, and apart from that, a 20-percent share seemed too small for the infrastructure of the fleet.

Strange as it may seem, the explosive situation has proved advantageous to Leonid Kravchuk in terms of settling his own domestic problems. And if it does not prove possible to put a stop to the early elections, which do not bode well for the president, then the chance remains of least somehow keeping afloat, using the image of savior of the nation and the state in the face of intervention by the "historical enemy," which is on the point of beginning tomorrow. That, perhaps, is precisely where one of the roots of the conflict lies. That is why, despite the statement made by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense Press Service on its readiness to resume the negotiating process at any time, to be honest, there is not much certainty that this will happen.

Strategic Missile Chief: 180 Warheads Transferred to Russia

LD3004161294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Colonel General Ihor Sergeyev, commander in chief of Ukraine's strategic missile troops, said in Moscow this morning that Ukraine is fulfilling its obligations and is transferring its nuclear warheads to Russia according to schedule. Already 180 Ukrainian warheads have been transferred to Russia. In return, fuel elements for nuclear power stations have been delivered to Ukraine.

Envoy Reports on Deployment of Peacekeepers in Sarajevo

LD3004163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian second peacekeeping battalion arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been stationed together with the first Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo. This was announced by Ukrainian Envoy Nikolay Ozodovskiy at a briefing in Kiev today.

He said the UN command would deploy the Ukrainian new peacekeeping formation in Gorazde only after an official agreement on this be received from Bosnian Serbs and Moslems.

Currently, in Gorazde there is a squad of the Ukrainian contingency within the composition of the international battalion. The battalion is commanded by an Ukrainian officer.

The Ukrainian second peacekeeping battalion was sent to Bosnia at the request by the UN Secretary General. The Ukrainian contingency within the UN peacekeeping forces was increased from 420 to 1,200 people.

Ozodovskiy said the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's mission to ex-Yugoslavia had met the command of the conflicting parties and had discussed guarantees for security of Ukrainian peacekeeping officers.

Ozodovskiy announced that in ex-Yugoslavia six Ukrainian servicemen had been killed and 26 wounded. He put the total loss suffered by the UN peacekeeping forces over the last year at 216 people killed and wounded.

Kravchuk Asks World To Help Solve Chernobyl Problems

LD3004162294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Ukraine was bearing the whole brunt of problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster, "although the country which planted the Chernobyl bomb under Ukraine no longer exists."

Ukraine will be unable to solve those problems without the world community's assistance, Kravchuk said on Tuesday at a rally marking the eighth anniversary of the tragedy.

"We can understand those who demand that the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant be closed down immediately," he said, adding that Ukraine would need international assistance in that too. But Ukraine "cannot do without" nuclear plants, he told the rally, held outside the fire station whose personnel fought the fire at the Chernobyl plant on 26 April 1986.

Also on Tuesday, local activists of the international Greenpeace erected a symbolic earth mound to commemorate the Chernobyl victims.

Last year Ukraine's nuclear plants generated 33 pct (the Chernobyl plant 7 pct) of the country's electricity.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Nominated as Presidential Candidate

LD2904140994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—A UNIAN correspondent learned on 29 April from sources close to the Central Electoral Commission that documents for the registration of Leonid Kravchuk as a candidate to run in the election for president of Ukraine are now under the consideration of the Central Electoral Commission. He was nominated by a meeting of the workers of the Kiev lift-making plant.

Kravchuk Wants Elections Postponed, Comments on Chernobyl

AU2904111394 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[UKRINFORM report: "The President Has Confirmed His Intention"]

[Text] The Ukrainian president met with the collective of KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, familiarized himself with the technological process of preparing the newspaper, and answered journalists' questions. Leonid Kravchuk confirmed his intention not to take part in the presidential elections. He will stand up in the parliament for their postponement. The president expressed a hope that the new Supreme Council would support him. "This is not just my opinion. Dozens of local councils, hundreds of labor collectives, and some political parties spoke in favor of postponing the elections," stressed the head of the Ukrainian state.

Touching upon the further operation of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant, the president pointed out: All conditions have been created for its normal work. There can be no question of closing it down now because, first, there are no funds for that and, second, Ukraine has found itself in an energy crisis.

Deputies Collect Signatures To Postpone Presidential Race

WS2904125794 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Katsman: "More Than a Third of Deputies Are Against 26 June Elections"]

[Text] As a KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent has learned from sources close to the Supreme Council, a group of newly elected deputies began to collect signatures demanding postponement of the presidential and local elections. According to preliminary assessments, as of the evening of 26 April, the group collected 130 signatures. The list, however, is not yet closed— the collection of signatures continues. Having obtained the support of a third of the deputies, the initiators of this action continue to pursue their goal.

The same sources have reported that the number of signatories increased after Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had revealed his intention to ask the Supreme Council to change its resolution on the summer elections. There is another very interesting fact. Among deputies who have signed the motion, are those who are affiliated to entirely opposing teams of candidates for the presidency, including teams which consider the elections absolutely essential.

Cancellation Could Trigger Miners Strike

LD2904161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In Friday's interview with INTERFAX the leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party Alexander Moroz said that if President Kravchuk decided to call off the preterm presidential elections, the coal miners would an launch industrial action and Kravchuk would be forced to revoke his decision.

On 28 April, 120 members of the Ukrainian parliament urged Kravchuk to call off the June 26 elections. They felt early voting would provoke constitutional chaos and anarchy.

Kravchuk said the parliament's refusal to call off the elections would aggravate the constitutional crisis. He said he would know what to do after the lawmakers had discussed the issue.

According to Moroz, there were no legal grounds for the suspension of the presidential elections. If the president said he was out to protect the nation's Constitution, said Moroz, he must use constitutional means to do so.

But, Moroz said, the president enjoyed the right to propose new legislation and could address the Supreme Soviet with a proposal for the postponement of the elections.

The new body of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet will be expected to open session on 11 May.

Candidate Moroz Rejects Election Postponement

LD0105125194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 1 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS corresponedents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Notv, 1 May—Aleksandr Moroz (Socialist Party), candidate for the Ukrainian presidency, is categorically against postponing the date for electing the head of state: I will do everything to have the election take place on the scheduled date, he told ITAR-TASS in an interview today.

You will recall that Leonid Kravchuk has appealed to parliament with an initiative to transfer the date of the presidential election from 26 June to a later date. This was supported the other day by 120 deputies in the Supreme Council.

Combining with the communists and the Peasants' Party in a single bloc, the Socialist Party now has 36 percent of the seats in parliament. If it is remembered that Ukrainian communist leader Petr Symonenko gave up his presidential candidacy the other day, then Aleksandr Morozov has a substantial chance of winning in the presidential marathon; but for this to happen he needs to collect 100,000 voters' signatures for his initial official registration as candidate for the post of president.

Lawmakers Side With Kravchuk on Election Issue

LD2904163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] More than one third of those who have been, as of date, elected to the Ukrainian parliament agree with President Kravchuk that pre-term presidential elections will breed anarchy, further confrontation, and chaos.

One hundred and twenty of the total of 335 lawmakers have requested Kravchuk to suspend municipal, and call off the 26 June presidential, elections.

Analysts feel the strong parliamentary support is indicative of the possibility of the postponement or suspension of the elections by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet [Supreme Council]. Kravchuk may be expected to suggest that the Supreme Soviet postpone or call off the elections on 11 May when the Ukrainian legislature opens session.

Talking to newsmen Kravchuk doubted whether the parliament's moves to confirm the election day and define the head of state's prerogatives would be constitutionally valid now that only 335 nominees had won seats in the 450-seat parliament. (The negative stand of 120 lawmakers makes it highly improbable that a resolution in favor of the elections pass—IF).

But the Ukrainian Labor Congress urged the new body of the Supreme Soviet to see to it that the presidential elections be held as scheduled and insure the free expression of the people's will.

According to the Ukrainian Labor Congress, Kravchuk's foreign and domestic policy moves put under threat the territorial integrity of, and civic peace in, Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Labor Congress is a political party of left-centrist orientation. It won official recognition in September of 1993. The one-time chair of the parliament's youth commission Anatoliy Matvienko is its leader.

On Thursday Ukraine's Central Electoral Commission recognized former Prime-Minister Leonid Kuchma and Vice-Premier Viktor Pinzenik as presidential candidates.

Six men, including former speaker Ivan Plyushch of the national parliament, one-time Vice-Premier Vitaliy Lanovoy and Socialist leader Aleksandr Moroz, will be running for president.

According to the latest reports from Kiev, the Ukrainian Communist party, with its 80-odd seats in the new parliament, intends to support Moroz. IF Note: Communist leader Petr Simonenko sees his own nomination as untimely and explains it by the feeling of euphoria that reigned after his party carried the March 27 parliamentary elections. Simonenko told newsmen an analysis of the situation and views of the party's regional organizations moved the collective presidency of the party's Central Committee to call off his candidacy. That, according to Simonenko, was in full keeping with the Communists' negative view of presidency as such, in Ukraine. If the elections were, indeed, held, Simonenko said, the left-wing forces would have to present a united front and work for the election of Aleksandr Moroz.

In an interview with Interfax, Moroz said Friday that if Kravchuk decided to call off the June 26 elections, the Ukrainian coal miners would launch industrial action and force Kravchuk to revoke his own decision.

Moroz saw no legal grounds for the postponement of the presidential elections. If the president said he was out to protect the constitution, he said, let the president go a constitutional way about it.

But Moroz recognized the president's right to propose new legislation and suggest that the Supreme Soviet put off the elections.

Crimean Tatar Leader Interviewed on Elections

LD2904170094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol—In an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent the other day, Mustafa Dzhemilev, chairman of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar People, stated that in the event of a Ukrainian presidential election being held, Crimean Tatars would "definitely be against Leonid Kuchma."

"We have quite often discussed our problems with Interregional Bloc of Reforms [MBR] representatves—

and Volodymyr Hrynyov in particular. He tends to view Crimean Tatars as a Crimean ethnic minority. So if the choice is to be made between Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk, we would prefer the latter. As for Ivan Plyushch, we have a bone to pick with him, too."

Forecasting the activity of the Crimean Tatar group in the Crimean Supreme Council, Mustafa Dzhemilev said they were offered cooperation by Rossiya bloc group members but that it was unacceptable. As for the Communists, the Majlis leader said, "we can hear their secretary, Leonid Hrach, making a lot of proposals that are not too bad. The Communists, however, have always been saying one thing and, once in power, doing another."

Mustafa Dzhemilev said that Yuriy Meshkov had suggested they should back Serhiy Tsekov, former Ukrainian people's deputy and supporter of the Rossiya bloc, as an appointee to the post of Crimean parliamentary speaker, with a Crimean Tatar representative then to be offered the post of deputy Supreme Council chairman. The Majlis chairman said: "We find such compromises deplorable and shall not accept them." The most fair thing to do, in his words, would be to elect Refat Chubarov, head of the Crimean Tatar deputies group, to the post of Crimean parliamentary speaker. However, his candidacy will not be put forward as he will stand no chance of winning. The Crimean Tatars are most likely not to back anyone to this post.

Mustafa Dzhemilev expressed the hope that the Crimean Tatars would succeed in appealing against the 14-seat quota granted to them by the previous Crimean Supreme Council. Yuriy Meshkov's statement that "the granting of even this quota was [former Crimean parliamentary speaker] Mykola Bahrov's error," was described by Mustafa Dzhemilev as nonpopulist and as an attempt to exert pressure on the Crimean Tatars. He added that the Crimean president's tactics might become the beginning of the end of his presidency."

Poll Indicates President Kuchma Favored in Elections

LD3004160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's former Prime-Minister Leonid Kuchma stands the best chance to win the presidential race. According to the sociological service Sotcis-Gullap, 18 percent of the voters favored his candidacy in March. In December 16.6 percent of the voters did so.

The service polled a total of 1,200 people older than 15 throughout Ukraine to find out that Viacheslav Chernovil (10 percent in March and 9.1 percent in December) and President Leonid Kravchuk (11 percent in March and 16.5 in December) emerged as two other frontrunners.

The People's Rukh movement decided to refrain from running its own presidential nominee.

Communist Candidate Withdraws From Presidential Race

LD0105155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 1 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 1 May TASS—leader of Ukrainian Communists Petr Simonenko, running for the Ukrainian presidency, withdrew his candidature following a two-hour confidential meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, a high-ranking official of the Ukrainian president's administration told ITAR-TASS today. However, he declined to give details of the meeting, saying that it was "secret."

It was not ruled out that Simonenko's step was a result of a thoroughly planned policy of opposition to the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and was aimed at consolidating voters in favour of a leader of a Socialist Party, Aleksandr Morozov. The move was apparently made to take advantage of the obvious disappointment of the Ukrainian population in the present leadership and its failure to ensure normal life in the country.

Apart from Leonid Kravchuk, taking part in the presidential race are Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Ivan Plyushch, Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, Vice-Premiers Vladimir Lanovoy and Viktor Pinzenik, Education Minister Petro Talanchuk and one of the leaders of the Ukrainian Union of Entrepreneurs, Valeriy Babich.

Ivan Plyushch is said to stand the best chance of being elected as a supporter of concentrating executive power in the hands of one person within a system of soviets as a form of state system.

If Kravchuk fails to postpone elections, he will find it difficult to remain in his post.

Democratic Party Says Election 'Path to Death'

WS0205110994 Kiev RATUSHA in Ukrainian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report on statement issued by the Democratic Party of Ukraine in Kiev on 21 April]

[Text] The Presidium of the National Council of the Democratic Party of Ukraine has made public the party's appeal to the new Ukrainian Supreme Council. At this complex moment in history, the document states, in spite of your different political convictions, we hope that your civic consciousness and responsibility for the country's fate will not allow the country to fall into the abyss of legal chaos and economic collapse. This is exactly what foes of the independent Ukraine hope for. Their main goal is to disturb Ukraine's political stability and destroy its governing structures. This might result in a complete halt to reform, rampaging separatism, and a continued drop in production and the population's standard of living. In addition to this kind of social backdrop, the antigovernment forces still need the election of a new president with vague powers and several hundred unruly regional administration heads to aggravate legal chaos in the state and eventually, provoke social conflict.

The Democratic Party believes that the 26 June elections, so eagerly pressed for by enemies of our state, must not take place, because this would put us on the brink of the abyss. This election is irrelevant in terms of timing, the condition of society, etc. Here are some other reasons: The new constitution and a law on power have not yet been adopted; the former Supreme Council limited the president's term in office to less than three years. So, this election is unconstitutional in nature. As was the Supreme Council, the president was elected by a popular vote, and only the people can replace him with an early referendum. Aware of the danger looming over Ukraine, the Democratic Party calls for the Supreme Council and society to put an end to political games and postpone the elections until after necessary legal documents are adopted—a constitution, first of all—so that one could in a peaceful atmosphere resolve state problems, reforming the economy and thereby improving the people's well-being.

As a party of moderate politicians and people with common sense, the Democratic Party of Ukraine assumes full responsibility for declaring the following: the 26 June elections are a path to death, not the creation of a young state.

[Signed] On 21 April in Kiev.

Meshkov Interviewed on Kravchuk, Situation in Crimea

LD3004155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkin]

[Text] Moscow 30 Apr—"The most important thing for the Crimea now is to get real economic programs off the ground," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said today in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "We'll just hope they won't stop us doing that.

"The makeup of Crimea's government has already been decided upon and there is cooperation with industrialists, entrepreneurs and agrarians. So now we're carrying out our planned economic aims," the president emphasized. He does not doubt that inhabitants of the peninsula support the line that has been taken. No groups, ethnic groupings or public movements are opposing it.

Yuriy Meshkov said that the newly elected Crimean Supreme Soviet would meet for its first session on 10 May. It is true that "the outgoing power is hanging on to every day, but these are the attempts of the doomed." In a word, everything is taking its course and the situation that has arisen on the peninsula does not worry the president. In his words, a businesslike situation is prevailing there, the supreme echelon of power has been established and everything is in working order.

"But that's inside our Republic, while outside it, in Ukraine, everything is a lot more complicated," Yuriy Meshkov stressed. "It is now clear that people have withdrawn their trust in Leonid Kravchuk and he has no support to stay in power. The only way he can achieve that is by creating tension and conflicts. You can see his hands reaching for the Crimea."

In the opinion of the president of the Crimea, evidence of this is provided by the actions of Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy and attempts to deploy military units on the peninsula. This, Yuriy Meshkov is convinced, is all being done in order to keep Crimeans from dealing with the economy. It is this most of all which alarms and worries the Crimean president.

He is sure that the May holidays will, as always, proceed in a festive and good-humored manner in the Crimea. A march and demonstration on 1 May will start the holiday. On 2 May, partisans will get together for a May Day celebration. The first 10 days of May are full of famous dates in the Crimea—Sevastopol is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its liberation from the fascists while the whole peninsula is marking the anniversary of the Crimean constitution. Its towns are decorated and ready to receive thousands of visitors. Delegations from CIS countries and farther away are expected.

Kravchuk Decree Mandates Improving Legal Reform

LD3004040894 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's president has issued a decree on improving the preparation of draft laws and conducting legal reform. In accordance with the decree, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice is additionally charged with organizing work on elaborating the concepts of draft legislative laws on the most important issues of the development of society and the state, their scientific argumentation, and the coordination of the activity of the central bodies of state executive power, scientific organizations, and higher education establishments of Ukraine in the area of preparing draft laws.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has been instructed to organize the work of the legal reform center and draft legislative work at Ukraine's Ministry of Justice within a period of two months.

Labor Minister Submits Resignation, Premier Accepts

LD2904192094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent learned today that Ukrainian Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych has submitted a resignation statement. According to unconfirmed data, Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy has agreed to Mykhaylo Kaskevych's resignation.

Kuchma: Reform Crucial for Better Ties With West

LD3004161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] During the Ukrainian Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's visit to U.S. earlier this month, U.S. Administration officials repeatedly stressed that Russia should stay Ukraine's chief strategic partner.

Kuchma, currently leading the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen, met during his one week tour of the United States with Vice-President Albert Gore, the Commerce Secretary's Assistant Andrew Summers, and a number of eminent senators.

"This trip has changed my attitude to U.S. lawmakers," Kuchma said.

In his words, American Administration officials regard Ukraine as a state rather than single out any Ukrainian leader.

He said that during his meeting with the International Monetary Fund's President Camdessus, the IMF leader made it clear that the Foundation will not help Ukraine unless it sees a leadership that means business rather than words there.

"If people in East and West alike see positive processes underway, they will rally around them," said Kuchma, who is a registered candidate to the Ukrainian presidency.

Presidential elections in Ukraine will take place on 26 June.

Analyst Blames Kravchuk, Censures U.S. Ambassador

AU2904140394 Kiev UKRAYINSKA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 9 (51) 28 Apr-11 May 94 p 1

[Article by Mykola Bilovil, UKRAYINSKA HAZETA military columnist: "It Is for Good Reason That Admirals Bezkorovaynyy and Ryzhenko Are Sounding the Alarm"]

[Text] Two reprints from the newspapers SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA and FLOT UKRAYINY have recently been discussed quite extensively and with concern by servicemen. The authors of the articles are extremely reputable people and, in my opinion, their positions and their proposals must be taken into account by Ukraine's minister of defense and by President Kravchuk in their actions and decisions, as these people know the state of affairs and the situation in the Crimea best of all.

Today, in the south of our fatherland and especially in Sevastopol, one can see the most intricate tangle of Ukrainian-Russian relations and contradictions.

Let me remind you that, in many of its publications, UKRAYINSKA HAZETA foresaw this development of events in the Black Sea Fleet. More than once, our newspaper sounded the alarm that Ukraine's sea borders remain either totally defenseless or will, together with our armed forces, be occupied by our northern neighbor.

Unfortunately, the leadership of the Ukrainian State thought differently. Nothing at all has been done by it to defend our sacred right to have our own navy and be a sea-faring power. On the contrary, everything was done in order to open channels for bringing this undertaking to naught. The most graphic example here is the removal from the post of Ukraine's defense minister of Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, who came out against the Massandra accords honestly, frankly, and openly. UKRAYINSKA HAZETA also wrote about this. To safeguard Ukrainian interests, General Morozov did not hesitate to disagree with the president, who was about to give Russia our entire Black Sea base. One can see now who was wrong. With the difference that General Morozov lost his post. Perhaps, our two supreme chief commanders [Kravchuk and Radetskyy] will pat attention to the hardships that the Ukrainian sailors are subjected to by the Russian "guests," more specifically, by the impudent masters of the situation."

Nor do some politicians overseas pay attention to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. For example, at the beginning of April, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine W. Miller visited Sevastopol. For some reason, he rushed to meet with commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Baltin—Russia's plenipotentiary. This was confirmed to me by the Press Service of Ukraine's Naval Forces. It is also a surprising fact that nothing is known, neither there or in Kiev, about the objective, course, or results of the U.S. diplomat's visit.

Who needs this game between two fires? I believe that this is interference on the part of a foreign state into our internal affairs. Living in our home and going to neighbors. This is the kind of independence we have. Everybody ignores us, and our own people seem to encourage such an attitude.

It is on this matter that Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy and Rear Admiral Oleksiy Ryzhenko are sounding the alarm. It is to their credit that they risk their careers by caring about Ukraine's interests and tell us how our "sworn brothers," with whom we share the Black Sea, deceive us, and also demand that the leaders of our state return to Yalta Accords in dividing the Black Sea Fleet into Russian and Ukrainian parts.

Unfortunately, very unfortunately, so it seems to me, their voices do not reach our president's ear, heart, or mind. Why does he keep silence and does not react to the cold-blooded injustice that the Russian military leaders perpetrate on our land?

Today, Mr. Baltin only fulfills Russia's orders, introduces Russian symbols everywhere and dismisses, on various pretenses, those servicemen who have pledged allegiance to Ukraine....

Who is then the guest and who is the host? Who will defend Ukrainian sailors, expected to defend Ukraine? This is a paradox of an independent country. The country is dependent and it appears that so is its president.

However, upon whom?

National Guard Contingent in Crimea Strengthened

LD2904193894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] A source in the Interior Ministry of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea told INTERFAX that Ukraine had in the last few days increased its National Guard contingent in the Crimean capital Simferopol.

But the ministry does not know exactly how many National Guards are currently stationed in the city, the source said.

However, other sources in Simferopol said there are more than 2,500 National Guards in the city, which is being patrolled by details of four or five National Guards with truncheons, an officer and several armed police.

Cabinet Decides To Index Vouchers

LD3004030594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Among the events that could have a fairly noticeable effect on our further life is the decision by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers on the indexation of the nominal value of accommodation vouchers. Their value has been established at 420,000 karbovantsi. Further indexation is to be carried out in proportion to changes in the nominal value of privatization property certificates. At the same time, the new value of the vouchers should be 40 percent of the new value of the certificates.

Crimea's Saburov Fears Kiev's Resistance to Economic Reform

MK2904093094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Vitaliy Dymarskiy, RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent, from Paris specially for SEGODNYA under the "Problem" rubric: "Yevgeniy Saburov Considers Crimea a Region of Political Stability, but Fears Kiev's Resistance to Economic Reform"]

[Excerpt] Yevgeniy Saburov, science chief of the Russian Government's Information and Social Technologies Center and Crimean deputy prime minister, who is on a visit to Paris as a participant in the conference "How To Do Business in Russia," told your correspondent in an exclusive interview that talk about political instability in Crimea was an insinuation by the mass media, because if this were really so foreign capital would not have come there. But at present there are a number of foreign companies, including French ones, operating in Crimea, whose economic potential is oriented toward Russian markets.

Yevgeniy Saburov pointed to a difference in principle between his current activity and what he did in Vladimir Oblast, where, he said, significant successes were achieved. Crimea, unlike Russian regions, is a fairly independent entity that has its own, albeit incomplete, statehood. Its prospects, the Crimean deputy prime minister said, depend on drastic changes in legislation, and this is its main difference from the Russian situation. Few people know, Yevgeniy Saburov said, that three edicts have already been signed—on taxes, on currency regulation, and on banks. "The Kiev authorities," he added, "have assured me that any economic transformations will only be welcome, but I have information that they are already beginning to put up some resistance. If Ukraine really treated us as its own territory, and the Crimean population as its own population, they would have hardly resorted to such actions."

"Initially it seemed to me," Yevgeniy Saburov continued, "that there is no political bottom line to the Crimean issue, but only a financial problem, particularly the splitting of the Black Sea Fleet. In this case the issue is who will have the right to sell decommissioned ships and who will receive lease payments—Ukraine or Crimea. Facts show that Kiev wants to have this money for itself, although it is Crimea that supplies Sevastopol with water, food, and all the rest. I think such conduct is unethical."

At the same time, Yevgeniy Saburov went on, political implications of the problem are becoming more and more visible. Kiev is doing its utmost to hamper integrationist processes in Crimea, fearing that it may lose not only the peninsula, but also Donbass, Lugansk, Nikolayev, and Odessa—a vast territory that accounts for over one-half of Ukraine and, like Crimea, is attracted by Russia. "I would like to deal with purely economic matters, but I understand that I will also have to tackle political problems, although I am not at all enthusiastic about that," Yevgeniy Saburov stated. [passage omitted]

President Signs Edict on State Commodity Bonds

LD0205085894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The president of Ukraine has signed an edict on introducing into circulation state commodity bonds of Ukraine's material resources. The Ukrainian credit fund has been designated as the issuing body. The funds received from the sale of the bonds on a competitive basis are to be invested in programs to develop and modernize enterprises. Foreign currency revenue from the sale of the bonds, received by enterprises to carry out the development programs, is counted as credit funds and is not subject to compulsory sale or taxation.

The bonds are issued in series. The president of Ukraine takes the decision to issue each series. The edict envisages the issue of the first series of bonds, numbering 400 units with a nominal value of $25 million each—a total value of $10 billion, on terms of payment of 7.75 percent annual interest.

Factory To Reopen Inside Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

LD3004090394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian cabinet of ministers has decided on resuming work at one of the enterprises in the town of Pripet, which is located inside the 30 km exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power station. This decision was made in connection with the need to provide for the functioning of Ukraine's nuclear power industry and meet its requirements for spares and nonstandard equipment. Work at Pripet's industrial enterprises was halted on 26 April 1986—the day of the disaster at Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Belarus

Shushkevich Views Economic, Political 'Crisis'

WS2904124194 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 27 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Yuras Karmanaw: "Stanislaw Shushkevich: 'I Am More Determined Than You Think'"]

[Text] Analyzing the reasons for the economic and political crisis—the situation in which our society has found itself—Stanislaw Shushkevich said that the key reason was the unwillingness of Belarusian authorities to undertake specific measures to reform the Belarusian economy. Market declarations, issued by the government, and antimarket measures, undertaken by it, have led to unbridled inflation and a catastrophic drop in GDP. (In February of this year, GDP dropped by 36 percent in comparison with the same period in 1993). The drop in production is continuing. "It is necessary to tell people the truth, to dispel the myth that, in comparison with other states, the Belarusian people live better," believes the former speaker of the legislature. "Having realized our current situation, it is necessary to undertake steps aimed at pulling the state out of the crisis." S. Shushkevich bases his steps on the program—drafted by the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly and the United Democratic Party of Belarus—which foresees the quicker implementation of reforms.

As for the political situation in the Republic, S. Shushkevich paid attention to the constitutional crisis caused by the signing of the monetary merger agreement with Russia. Having sharply denounced the steps taken by the government, he called them "a conscientious gambling on public opinion," explaining his viewpoint by the fact that the government cannot but understand that even if the agreement comes into force in its current form, Belarusian workers in Soligorsk will receive their wages no quicker than workers in Vorkuta [Russia], who have not been paid in several months. S. Shushkevich cited the example of the Supreme Soviet commission, headed by A. Lukashenka, as the manifestation of the exacerbation of the constitutional crisis. "Though the commission's activity has made a lot of noise," argues S. Shushkevich, "no 'mafia' members were punished. At the same time, the dismissal of the commission was illegal. The fact that some deputies withdrew from this commission could not be the reason for its shut down. The commission was enacted by the Supreme Soviet, so it was up to the Supreme Soviet to dismiss it."

Answering questions from the audience, which chiefly concerned the "unused Supreme Soviet chairman's power" and admonishments for being indecisive, S. Shushkevich said: "I am more determined than you think. However, my determination has never exceeded and will never exceed the limits of the law. As for the allegedly unused opportunities of the chairman's position, you are overestimating them. My power differed considerably from that of a president. I was only authorized to sign international treaties and agreements, and nobody will accuse me of giving Belarus a poor image on the international scene. As for other things, I fulfilled the Supreme Soviet's will. Please, recall my negative position on the collective security treaty. However, I was forced to sign it because this was the Supreme Soviet's decision." Rejecting the reproaches for being unable to set up a team of like-minded people when he occupied the position of Supreme Soviet chairman, S. Shushkevich said that such a team exists and, considering the recent mistakes—one of his key mistakes being that "he trusted unworthy advisers"—he will draw corresponding conclusions. It seems that the saying "forewarned is forearmed" characterizes fairly well Shushkevich's trump card on which his team counts.

Hryb on Tax Law Amendments, Constitutional Court

WS2904135794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Text] At the beginning of a news conference at the Supreme Soviet, Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb summed up the results of the extraordinary, 14th, Supreme Soviet session. He dwelt on the changes and addenda to certain legislative acts in connection with the signing of the monetary merger agreement with Russia. In particular, he said:

[Begin Hryb recording] In accordance with the agreement in the area of tariff regulations on external economic activities, both sides should introduce identical customs tariffs, taxes, and duties with regard to imports and exports. Under these conditions, customs duties in mutual trade are canceled as of 1 May. The Russian side also commits itself to fully abolish customs duties on supplies of energy resources and raw materials to Belarus. Under this commitment, imports from Russia will be much cheaper. The decrease in prices for energy resources and raw materials in connection with the abolishment of customs duties will allow us to decrease the production cost of Belarusian goods, as well as [word indistinct] production and trade in our Republic. [end recording]

Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb then introduced members of the Constitutional Court to journalists. These judges were elected by Supreme Soviet deputies at yesterday's extraordinary session. Mechyslaw Hryb described how deputies were nominated for this high post.

[Begin Hryb recording] Candidates for this high post were put forward with the participation of people's deputies, permanent commissions—especially the Commission for Legislation and the Commission for Statehood Building, and the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Proposals were also made by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus, the Prosecutor's General Office, the

KGB, the Interior Ministry, and the Justice Ministry. This work was being carried out openly, with the broad discussion of candidacies in Supreme Soviet commissions and at the Presidium sessions.

As you can see, there were many candidates proposed for the Constitutional Court. At Presidium sessions, we considered several dozen candidates. At the Supreme Soviet session, we considered 16 people, after listing them on a secret ballot. There were 10 candidates introduced on the secret ballot due to the fact that the Constitutional Court should comprise 11 judges: nine members, one deputy chairman, and one chairman. All this was agreed upon. Nine judges of the Constitutional Court were elected by secret ballot. One candidate did not go through on the ballot. Thus, according to the law on the Constitutional Court, this judicial body, with regard to the number of judges, is legitimate and can begin work today. According to our laws, the Constitutional Court is legitimate if the body has at least seven members. So, it is legitimate. The Constitutional Court chairman will be elected by the Supreme Soviet at the recommendation of the future president. As has become known, at their session yesterday, members of the Constitutional Court elected Professor Valeryy Tsikhinya, doctor of juridical sciences, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Court. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Delegation

WS2904191194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Pyotr Kravchanka met today with a delegation from the Grand National Assembly of Turkey headed by its first deputy chairman [name indistinct] at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. The Department of Information at the Foreign Ministry told a BELINFORM correspondent that during the talks, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of mutual relations achieved in a very short time. [words indistinct] of bilateral agreements that have been recently signed. Both sides spoke for further expansion of the cooperation and exchanged their opinions on political and economic issues. Tansu Okandan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Turkey to Belarus attended the talks.

'Acute' Drop in Jan-Feb Russian Oil, Gas Supplies

WS2904143794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The problem of nonpayments for Russian supplies of [energy] resources and other products has once again become acute. Volumes of oil and gas supplies have decreased. In January and February, oil supplies to Belarus totaled 2.1 million tonnes (down by 5.9 percent), while gas supplies—4.4 billion cubic meters (a decrease of 88 percent).

Firms To Settle Accounts With Ukrainian Partners in Rubles

WS0205083694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Industrialists from Belarus and Ukraine do not raise the issue of restoring the former political union. However, to normalize the (?functioning) of the two states' economies, industrialists consider it necessary to restore the former economic relations. The monetary merger agreement between Belarus and Russia is a key factor for the establishment of our relations with Ukraine. In this case, Belarusian enterprises will receive the opportunity to settle their accounts with their Ukrainian partners—who buy raw materials from Russia—in Russian rubles, which will naturally have a positive impact on the work of Belarusian enterprises. In general, in the opinion of experts, the preservation of close partnership-like relations will impart a vital impulse to the stabilization of the economic situation.

Moldova

Dniester, Moldova Leaders Outline Conflict Resolutions

LD3004144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 30 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] April 30 TASS—Moldavian [Moldovan] President Mircea Snegur and Dniester Republic leader Igor Smirnov made a joint statement on Saturday outlining ways to resolve the Dniester conflict.

The statement signed in presence of representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoys said that a new social and political situation has emerged in the republic, creating prerequisites for successful resolution of the crisis.

Both leaders welcomed the mediatory role of CSCE and the Russian Federation in settling the Dniester conflict.

Snegur and Smirnov stressed the need to determine the status of the Dniester Republic, establish official relations, delegate and delineate powers and fix up a transitional period for gradual implementation of reached agreements in all spheres.

The document also calls for establishing firm guarantees, including with international participation, ensuring full and unconditional implementation of these agreements.

Opposition Party Condemns Snegur-Smirnov Deal

AU3004194494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1800 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/4/1994—"The declaration of Moldovan and Dniester leaders," signed by

Mircea Snegur and Igor Smirnov on April 28th, "is another step of the process of Bessarabia's subjugation to Russian interests," states the declaration of the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova [FPCDM]. According to it, "Moscow representatives who hold the key posts in Moldova seriously injured our national interests and undermined Moldova's independence and unity" with this new agreement between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The April 28th declaration implies official recognition of the "Dniester Moldovan Republic" which is considered synonymous with Moldova. The declaration says that the presence of the CSCE mission at this meeting mars the prestige of this international organization and makes "it an advocate of Russian imperial policy." The FPCDM "considers that the deal on April 28th aims at annulling the national unified state and jeopardizes the nation's fundamental right to self-determination," concludes the declaration.

Tiraspol Women Ask Yeltsin Not To Withdraw 14th Army

AU3004194594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 30/4/1994—The Dniester Republic Women's Union (TWU), which is considered an extreme branch of the separatist movement in eastern Moldova, sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev accusing General Aleksandr Lebed [commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in Dniester] of attempting to liquidate the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. The message says that if Lebed ignores the Dniester legislation on Tiraspol's right to possess the 14th Army's property, the women will enchain themselves arm in arm with their children to prevent the evacuation of the Russian military troops and equipment from the Dniester region. The TWU asks Yeltsin to dismiss General Lebed as the 14th Army's commander. It also demands Russia's recognition of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. The TWU warns Yeltsin not to use the Dniester region "as a medium of exchange in political games."

Political Prisoner Ilascu's Health 'Deteriorating'

AU3004194394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 30/4/1994—Yesterday, Nina Ilascu, the wife of the political prisoner Ilie Ilascu, visited with her husband for two hours at the Hlinaia Jail in Grigoriopol district. She took with her holy water, wafer, Easter cake, and red eggs, hallowed by father Vasile Petrache, vicar of the Chisinau St. Nicholas Church of the Bessarabian Metropolitan See (old style.) Ilie Ilascu thanked father Vasile Petrache for the holy gifts and recalled the confession he made last year behind bars on the stage of the Tiraspol house Kirovet, where a judicial and political farce was occurring. Nina Ilascu told BASAPRESS that Ilie Ilascu's health is deteriorating: He has pains in his liver and stomach. Ilascu is isolated from information sources. He reconfirmed his decision not to petition to the Tiraspol leaders for pardon and awaits decisive actions to be made by the Moldovan Parliament and president.

Claims of Possible Union with Romania Refuted

PM2904103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Ion Sofroniye, Moldovan Government press secretary: "Russian Has Not Renounced Imperial Claims"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—The whole world knows that there are influential forces in Russia dreaming of reviving the USSR. THE NEW YORK TIMES recently published an article headlined "Russian Imperialism Is Stronger Than Soviet Power," claiming that "Russia is striving to restore its former empire." It was this trend that Valeriya Novodvorskaya saw and condemned in IZVESTIYA (4 March 1994) in an article entitled "I Do Not Love the State." Two academics dealt her a very prompt rebuff in the same newspaper. They wrote among other things: "Were it up to Mrs. Novodvorskaya, the Russian-speaking population of the Dniester Region should be handed over to Romania as the People's Front want." But what if the population does not want that?

There are a number of inaccuracies in this talk about the Dniester Region. What is the "Russian-speaking population"? In one of his interviews in the Moscow press, Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the following about this term: "I do not accept the concept of 'Russian-speaking population.' Which of us is not a Russian speaker? After all, the whole of Kazakhstan speaks Russian, including 99 percent of Kazakhs."

That is the linguistic situation in the Republic of Moldova today, with the possible exception that 100 percent of Moldovans here speak Russian.

Clearly, the authors of the devastating article in IZVESTIYA were referring to the Russian population in the Dniester Region. But in that case they should have known that the overwhelming majority of the Republic of Moldova's Russian population live not in the Dniester Region, in other words on the left bank, but on the right bank of the Dniester River. If you follow the authors' logic, the Russian population of Kishinev, Beltsy, Bendery, and other population centers on the Right Bank are in very great danger of being handed over to Romania. And if that is the case, a Russian Army should be massed on the right bank and the so-called Dniester Moldavian Republic set up. But that is absurd!

There is a second misunderstanding. Neither Left Bank nor Right Bank Russians, or Ukrainians, Moldovans, Gagauz, and representatives of other nationalities are threatened with being "handed over to Romania." Since during a 6 March 1994 sociological poll the overwhelming majority of the population of the Republic of

Moldova advocated building an independent, integral, and indivisible state. And whereas some people previously played on the threat of Moldova's joining another state in order to somehow justify separatism and a foreign army's sojourn on its territory, it is now time to renounce this claim which is known to be false.

It is better to tell the truth, as a specialist on nearby foreign countries did in Moscow's international newspaper MEGAPOLIS-EXPRESS (No. 9). We quote: "The territory of the Dniester Region (that is the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova—Author's Note) where the Russian 14th Army is stationed is of exceptional military-strategic importance for Russia and it therefore seems quite logical for a permanent Russian military base to be set up there. During the special period [osobyy period] this base will perform the function of an advance detachment, ensuring the arrival and deployment of the strategic grouping of Russian troops in this sector."

It is because of these aspirations, Messrs. Academics, that Valeriya Novodvorskaya does not like the state. It is not a question of the rights of the "Russian-speaking population," which no one is violating, but of Russia's special military-strategic interests. It is necessary to call a spade a spade; particularly for doctors of historical sciences.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Visits Zhambyl Oblast

LD2904121294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Is it possible to work for the future under the economic crisis and not to be afraid of bankrupcy? A positive answer to this question was given by Ukan Atabayev, president of Karatau, the republic's largest holding company, to [Kazakh President] Nazarbayev who paid a working visit to Zhambyl Oblast yesterday and today. The head of the republic was greatly interested in products manufactured by the joint Kazakhstani-Israeli venture set up at the Khimprom production amalgamation, namely corrugated and smooth-surfaced pipes made from polypropylene. Nazarbayev expressed his satisfaction with the hard work of the Zhambyl chemistry workers. In a difficult situation they did not begin to complain and pin hopes on the government to tackle all their problems. Their products are of high quality, competitive, and highly profitable.

The head of state had a lively and interesting conversation with workers who felt very much at ease with him. First of all, they talked about strengthenning ties of friendship between representatives of various nationalities. Unfortunately, this friendship has been lost in a number of the former USSR republics. Traditionally good interethnic relations are maintained in Kazakhstan, but it does not mean that one can sit back and allow such an important issue to be developed on its own.

They also discussed dual citizenship. The president said: "My opinion in this case is very unequivocal. Let the people themselves freely choose which country they want to live in, and then that country must give them citizenship quickly and without any obstacles. This would be better than having two passports and being indecisive for all of one's life where to reside."

The president also had a warm meeting with orphaned children from the Ulan orphanage in Zhambyl. Children told him about their life and performed a concert.

Nursultan Nazarbayev left for Kyrgyzstan today.

Supreme Council Committee Chairmen Named

LD2904180594 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Excerpts] On 27 April, the structure of Kazakhstan's Supreme Council was formed. [passage omitted] Well, now we can finally give you the names of the committees and of their chairmen:

The Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Human Rights—Salyk Zimanov;
the Committee for Legal Reform, Legality, Law, and Order—Murat Kalmatayev;
the Committee for Statehood and Regional Policy—Yuriy Kim;
the Committee for Economic Reforms—Orazaly Sabdenov;
the Committee for Finance and Budget—Orazgeldy Baymuratov;
the Committee for International and Interparliamentary Relations—Serikhan Zhakupov;
the Committee for Social Protection of the Population—Valentin Makalkin;
the Committee for Health Protection—Iskak Iserghepov;
the Committee for Agrarian Reforms and Food—Yuriy Ilyashenko;
the Committee for Industry, Transport, and Communications—Kazhmurat Nagmanov;
the Committee for Construction, Architecture, and Municipal Services—Bulat Nurgaziyev;

the Committee for Ecology and Utilization of Natural Resources—Uzakbay Karamanov;
the Committee for Science, Education, and New Technologies—Umirbek Zholdasbekov;
the Committee for Affairs of Culture, Mass Media, and Public Organizations—Altynshash Dzhaganova;
the Committee for National Security and Defense—Tokhtar Aubakirov; the Control Chamber—Amangeldy Kazhibayev.

The parliament session has taken a break till 16 May.

Delegation to Hungary Discusses Cooperation Ties

LD0205100394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] A visit to Budapest by an official Kazakh delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Konstantin Zhigalov was devoted to examination of the possibilities to deepen and broaden political and economic integration between Hungary and Kazakhstan. The guests from Almaty visited one of the largest Hungarian enterprises—the Videoton joint stock production amalgamation, whose products are well known on the former USSR market. The Kazakh delegation was interested first of all in the progress of privatization of large Hungarian enterprises, in the level of involvement of working collectives in this process.

According to one of the leaders of Videoton, Peter Lakotosz, his enterprise has begun to establish close links with Kazakhstan. Hungarian foreign policy pays increasing attention to the development of ties with the Asian republics of the former USSR which have gained their independence, said Andras Kelemen, political state secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He stressed that during this visit a framework for a joint agreement aimed at strengthening Kazakh-Hungarian ties in all fields will be discussed.

Fire at Thermoelectric Plant Brings Industry to Near Halt

LD0205092694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Southern Kazakhstan's biggest thermoelectric plant, the Chimkent Thermoelectric-3 Plant, has stopped working after the failure of one of the pumps caused the plant's cable network to burn out. It took about three hours to put out the fire. The accident has practically brought to a halt two industrial giants—a tyre factory and an oil refinery. Work is under way to clear up the accident.

Kyrgyzstan

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Tajikistan

LD3004102494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan has circulated a statement: The first round of talks on interethnic reconciliation in Tajikistan has taken place in Moscow. It was held under the auspices of the United Nations. Attending it were observers from Kazakhstan, Iran, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Russia. The sides [word indistinct] a special address from the UN secretary general, agreed on and signed a joint declaration which urges the government of Tajikistan and the opposition forces to restrain from any kind of activities which might endanger the negotiating process.

A protocol was signed by the sides involved on setting up a joint commission which will address issues of refugees and migrants from Tajikistan. Kyrgyzstan considers the aspiration of its participants to establish a political dialogue as an important result of the talks. The republic regards it as the only way for achieving national accord. Kyrgyzstan, as well as other CIS participants, expressed its concern with the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border still being tense. Kyrgyzstan is Tajikistan's nearest neighbor and therefore it cannot remain indifferent to the situation which has developed there. Kyrgyzstan in its foreign policy is guided by the principle of noninterference in the affairs of Tajikistan as a sovereign state and develops cooperation with it in accordance with the accepted norms of international law, the UN Charter, and Kyrgyzstan's liabilities as the CIS member-state. Kyrgyzstan pursues the policy of supporting peacemaking efforts by international organizations and the CIS countries aimed at stabilizing the situation in Tajikistan.

Kyrgyzstan stands for further developing of friendly cooperation with the Republic of Tajikistan, and recognizes its government which has been elected in accordance with the Constitution. Kyrgyzstan always spoke in favor of holding a political dialogue between the government of Tajikistan and the opposition. It would have created conditions for overcoming the developed conflict situation and national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

The Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan supports the aspiration of the participants of the talks to develop the negotiating process with the aim of achieving national accord. Kyrgyzstan is sure that there are possibilities for political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan, normalization of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. All the sides involved should show their good will.

Russian's Allegedly Being 'Pushed Out' of Top Jobs

PM2904144594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Yuriy Razgulyayev report: "Askar Akayev Talks Beautifully"]

[Text] Bishkek—The April session of the Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] parliament began in traditional fashion with the question of the early resignation of a group of deputies. Once again it involved Russian deputies and once again it was "in connection with their emigration from the republic." This time some very well-known people are leaving Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan]. They include A. Yezhov, who had headed the major "Yuzhpolimetall" Association, V. Sergeyev, chief physician at the Osh Oblast Hospital....

President A. Akayev often says that the main reasons for emigration by the nonnative population are economic. That is probably so. But this clearly does not apply to V. Sergeyev, much less to A. Yezhov. The session, of course, did not hear from them or go into the reasons for their departure. It simply rubber-stamped the proposed resolution. But in the lobbies this latest emigration gave rise to a lot of discussion. And very heated discussion at that.

The fact is that, on the initiative of President A. Akayev himself, a package of documents was recently drawn up aimed at halting this process which has already considerably damaged the young state. It includes proposals on the creation of joint ventures with Russia and interstate investment funds. There are also some draft documents on the full functioning of the Russian language and on a balanced cadre policy. Everything seems correct. But, on the other hand, it is no secret that in real life all non-Kirghiz continue to be pushed out of leading positions and are being discriminated against in commerce and the financial sphere.

And here is one last fact. V. Verbkin, deputy leader of the president's press service, has tendered his resignation "in the light of persistent suggestions that I quit." He was one of the last non-Kirghiz on the upper floors of the "White House." He has spent his whole life here, his love for his homeland knows no bounds, and he even has a Kirghiz wife. As far as V. Verbkin's professional qualities are concerned, he was one of the organizers of the president's election campaign. He is rightly considered to be a "walking encyclopedia" on all aspects of the republic's political life.

The process of elbowing out non-Kirghiz has already gone so far that, for instance, nobody even attempted to explain to V. Verbkin the reasons for his dismissal. "Let him go..." has been the indifferent comment on the decision.

Tajikistan

Militants Seize Uzbek Plane, Confiscate Cargo

LD0105162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1516 GMT 1 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 1 May—Militants of the Tajik opposition confiscated today the cargo that had been delivered by an AN-26 aircraft [as received] of the military transport aviation corps of Uzbekistan at the Khorog airport, the administrative center of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from well-informed sources in Tajikistan that the Defense Ministry of Uzbekistan has confirmed that the cargo of "humanitarian aid" had indeed been prepared to be sent to Gornyy Badakhshan [Gorno-Badakhshan]. However, Tajikistan had not been informed about the exact time the aircraft would cross the state border.

The aircraft landed at 1500 hours local time (1200 Moscow time) at the Khorog airport. After the landing of the AN-26, the landing strip and all access routes to the airport were surrounded by militants of a unit belonging to the "Tajik self-defense forces", under the command of Yedgor Mamadaslamov. The cargo was seized and taken away.

In this connection, military sources in Dushanbe are not ruling out that there might be some contacts between certain forces in Uzbekistan and militants in Pamir, which are influencing the situation in the region.

There has been no official reaction from the Tajikistan Government.

Russian Border Guards Thwart Attempted Breakthroughs

LD3004123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1115 GMT 30 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 30 Apr—A clash between Russian border guards and an armed group of Tajik fighters trying to make their way into Tajikistan from Afghanistan occurred last night in the Shuroabad sector of the Moskovskiy border detachment. According to infomation from military sources in Dushanbe, the Russian border guards used heavy weapons to repulse the breakthrough. The number of dead among the intruders is not being given, while there were no casualties among the border guards.

Also last night, an attempt by a large party of armed intruders from Afghanistan to cross into Tajikistan was thwarted by Russian border guards in a sector of the border near the village of Porshnev in the Pamir mountains.

Report on Border Clashes Called 'Groundless'

LD3004171894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] A report was broadcast yesterday by the news program of the Ostankino television that the situation on the border in Badakhshan allegedly became tense, which has resulted in clashes between the border guards and the Tajik opposition fighters from the other side of the river [in Afghanistan].

According to a report by our correspondent from the executive committee of the oblast and the military unit of the border guards of Badakhshan, this report is groundless and is a mere lie. In general, such reports could destabilize the situation and become the source for false rumors. The situation in Badakhshan and its bordering areas is calm.

State of Emergency Extended in Khatlon Oblast

LD2904161594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In order to stabilize the situation, enforce the law, and protect citizens, the Presidium of Tajikistan's National Assebmly has extended by three months, until 30 July, the emergency situation in Khatlon Oblast.

Edict on Celebration of Victory Day, 2-9 May

LD3004145094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] The edict of the presidium of the National Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan on celebration of Victory Day:

(1) To permit holding festivities dedicated to Victory Day from 2 to 9 May 1994, as an exception in conditions of the state of emergency in Dushanbe city and other areas of the republic where the state of emergency is declared.

(2) The Ministries of Internal Affairs, Security, and Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan are to strictly ensure the public order and security and safety of citizens in the festive areas.

(3) The edict comes into force from the day of its issue.

[Signed] Emomali Rakhmonov, the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Deputy Premier, Broadcasting Chief Appointed

LD2904162894 Moscow RIA in English 0827 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Dushanbe, April 29, RIA—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan appointed Bozgul Dodkhudoyeva, former minister of education, to the post of deputy chairperson of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Izbraghim Usmanov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party, was appointed to the post of chairman of the State Committee on Radio and Television.

Turkmenistan

Turkey's Cetin Meets With Niyazov, Uzbek Leader

TA2904201294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Telephone report by Ertugrul Bulent Danaci from Ashgabat over regional map—recorded]

[Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin was received by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, who told Cetin that Turkmenistan is grateful to Turkey for its contributions to Turkmenistan's development. Niyazov pointed out that work is under way in connection with the natural gas pipeline, adding that the natural gas will arrive in Turkey within two years and will be used at a much cheaper rate than today.

Niyazov said that Turkmenistan wants to name a textile factory under construction in the city of Tedzhen after President Suleyman Demirel.

Foreign Minister Cetin said he is happy to see the progress Turkmenistan has made in two years. He pointed out that the brotherly relations between Turkey and Turkmenistan develop with each passing day, adding: Turkey will continue to extend all kinds of help to brotherly Turkmenistan.

Cetin recalled that the project to deliver natural gas from Turkmenistan to Europe via Turkey is being executed by a consortium composed of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Russia, and Iran. He also said that Turkish businessmen want to build a port in the city of (Turkmenbasi) on the Caspian Sea.

During the meeting, which was conducted in a very warm atmosphere, Cetin repeated President Demirel's invitation to President Niyazov to visit Turkey. Cetin presented Niyazov with maps of Turkmenistan printed in Turkey in the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets, as well as with a Turkish diplomatic passport. Niyazov kissed the passport and touched it to his forehead, saying he considers Turkey his second motherland.

It is reported that Niyazov's visit to Turkey will take place either in late June or early July.

Cetin briefly interrupted his contacts in Turkmenistan to visit Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. He was received at Tashkent Airport by Uzbek Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Said Asymov. Cetin was later received by President Islam Karimov. The two men discussed all aspects of the relations between the two countries. On behalf of President Demirel, Cetin invited Karimov to Turkey. Meanwhile, Turkish Ambassador to Uzbekistan Erdogan Aytun presented his credentials to Karimov.

In the afternoon, delegations from the two countries, headed by the respective foreign ministers, held talks. Uzbek Foreign Minister Asymov said his country wants to further develop its economic and political relations with Turkey. He recalled that Turkey was the first country to recognize Uzbekistan and stressed that his people will never forget that.

Cetin said Turkey believes that relations between the two countries—which are relatives, making them closer than friends—have not developed sufficiently. He pointed out that the volume of trade between the two countries is $225 million. This should be raised to $1 billion, he stressed.

The foreign minister stated that Turkey extends all the economic aid it can to Uzbekistan. He explained that the $250-million loan extended by Eximbank and the $245-million sugar and wheat loans are being used. After concluding his contacts in Uzbekistan, Cetin returned to Ashgabat.

Tomorrow morning, Cetin will sign a consular agreement and a protocol on solidarity between the foreign ministries of the two countries. He will then return to Turkey.

Cetin Says Oil Pipeline Project Not on Agenda

TA3004154294 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1430 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Ashgabat, April 30 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Saturday said that the oil pipeline with Turkmenistan was not on the agenda at this point.

Cetin concluded his official visits to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on Saturday.

Before leaving Ashgabat, Cetin visited site of a food products industrial installations that are being constructed by a Turkish company.

A consular agreement, and another foreseeing consultation meetings between the Foreign Ministries of Turkey and Turkmenistan, were signed by Cetin and Turkmenistan's Khalykberdi Atayev.

Speaking to reporters before his departure, Cetin said during the visit he has observed that the Central Asian republics with cooperation with Turkey have turned into a large construction site.

He said a project for the transfer of Turkmenistan natural gas to Europe through Turkey is final adding "I hope Turkey will use more of Turkmen natural gas in 1996 and at a cheaper price."

However, he said at the present an oil pipeline between the two countries is not on the agenda.

He said there are more than 40 Turkish companies doing business in Turkmenistan, adding this amounts to investments and projects worth of approximately one billion dollars, that include fields such as construction, food, yarn, weaving industry, hotel constructions, port construction and oil exploration.

In Uzbekistan he said there are more than 50 Turkish firms doing business there.

He said that he has communicated invitations by President Suleyman Demirel to the heads of state of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Saparmurad Niyazov is expected in Turkey either by the end of June or beginning July, while Uzbekistan's Islam Karimov will be visiting Turkey within this year.

Mitterrand, Niyazov Discuss Gas Pipeline

BR2904154194 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Apr 94 p 9

[Sophie Shihab report: "Francois Mitterrand Pays Homage to Turkmenistan's Regional Policy"]

[Text] Ashgabat—On Wednesday 27 April, Francois Mitterrand saluted Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov with the words: "I wonder if you are not the only country in this region not to be involved in the wars being waged in this area and which are not second-rate conflicts but real wars." In this way he partly replied to the questions raised by his tour of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

One of the French president's aims was to shed some light on the conflicts in Central Asia at a time when attention is being focused on Bosnia, and on the Tajik conflict that may lead Russia to return to its old imperialist policy. That was certainly one of the reasons why he chose to visit these obscure Muslim states of the former USSR, going where no Western head of state had gone before; this is why he mobilized half a dozen aircraft and almost 400 people for the five-day state visit to areas with no modern infrastructure and where the heat is already crushing, especially on the many visits to archeological sites. It also explains why he has ignored the fact that the Uzbek and Turkmen presidents, although signatories to the CFCE accords, have blithely disregarded their provisions relating to civic freedoms.

Internal Weaknesses

President Mitterrand explained why he did not intend making demands on these countries which have never known democracy, nor "make accusations if not everything is done in Turkmenistan in the same way as it is done in Paris." If he came here despite everything, it was because he wanted to demonstrate his support for them, considering it important, for geopolitical reasons, that their fragile independence be defended. These two new states, potential targets for Russia's recolonizing ambitions, still depend on Russia for their security and are forward posts of the CIS and buffers for the Russian borders against Afghanistan and Iran.

This perilous location is compounded by considerable internal weaknesses. Mr. Mitterrand said in Tashkent that there was the threat of "religious intolerance" being added to the "harshness of the times," i.e, the post-Soviet economic crisis that, in the case of Uzbekistan, is affecting the most densely populated country of central Asia, whose population grows by 500,000 each year. There is therefore every risk that sooner or later the extremists could get a stranglehold if foreign investments are delayed.

There is also the risk that Uzbek President Islam Karimov will seek to position himself to an even greater extent as the leader of a regional power "imposing stability" not just on his own people, which Mr. Mitterrand welcomed, but also on his neighbors, all of which have Uzbek minorities. This, the French president indirectly condemned by praising the opposite stance adopted the Turkmen neighbors.

Unlike Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan does not participate with the Russians in the "collective peace forces" deployed in Tajikstan. Also unlike Uzbekistan, and Iran and Pakistan, Turkmenistan is not involved in the inter-Afghan conflicts except as an attempted mediator. According to a presidential spokesman, the Turkmen president told Mr. Mitterrand that they were waiting for a "new man to emerge in the Pashtoon groups, capable of triggering national reconciliation."

Targeting the Insidious Forces

President Niyazov has good reasons for implementing this wise foreign policy. With less than 4 million inhabitants but a vast area rich in gas reserves and a border of over 1,000 km with Iran, his country may look easy prey. Mr. Mitterrand told him on Thursday at the official dinner: "Your independence is certainly not threatened and the usurpation of power today is done by more insidious means, without necessarily requiring recourse to arms." The "insidious" forces he targeted are not so much the Iranians, neighbors with whom Mr. Niazov claimed he had no problems, as the Russians, since the only gas pipeline leaving the Turkmen gas fields crosses through Russian territory, supplying the insolvent countries of the CIS. Thus, Mr. Niyazov is a proponent of building a second gas pipeline to the south, toward the European markets.

Mr. Mitterrand pleased his host by stating on Wednesday that he did not share Washington's objections at sending the pipeline through Iran. He also pleased him by promising, as he had also promised the Uzbek president, that he would soon be sending a French military mission to look into the possibility of cooperation in the domain of air traffic control training and border patrols. These cooperation plans could also be envisaged within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace. With regard to this, the Turkmen president apparently amazed his French interlocutors by saying that he had already signed the framework agreement of the partnership.

Undoubtedly satisfied, on Wednesday the Turkmen president also agreed to sign an agreement with [French construction magnate] Martin Bouygues, who traveled in the presidential plane. This agreement covers the construction of the new presidential palace in Ashgabat and has been in the making for over a year. It is worth 400 million French francs, payable in cash during the construction work.

It is certainly quite legitimate and within the rules for a presidential visit to open the door for French companies. However, the Bouygues contract, which is not a priority in a country whose new currency has plummeted over recent months, could feed the discontent of the Turkmen people, despite the pride they might take in seeing their president well-housed. That was certainly not one of the aims of Francois Mitterrand's visit.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Announces Elections 'Before the End of Year'

BR2904153694 Paris LIBERATION in French 28 Apr 94 p 17

[Romain Franklin report: "In Tashkent, Islam Karimov Has Silenced the Dissidents"]

[Text] Tashkent—Despite his popularity as strong man, Uzbek President Islam Karimov, who received 86 percent of the votes in the December 1991 presidential election, is displaying a ferocity against dissidents which diplomats and oppositionists readily compare to the "era of Brezhnevian repression." Tolerated at the time of the declaration of the country's independence in August 1991, the opposition now seems completely drained. The Birlik movement (nationalist Unity movement), which organized mass demonstrations, was banned in February 1993; the Erk party (whose leader obtained 12 percent of the votes in the 1991 presidential election) has not been officially "registered" since last October. One is now operating from Moscow and the other from Turkey. The last eight prominent members of the Erk party still in Uzbekistan, including Otanazar Aripov, the movement's spokesman and secretary, were arrested at the beginning of March and have since disappeared.

Francois Mitterrand, who has just completed a visit to Uzbekistan on Wednesday, made his little speech on human rights, stating in Tashkent that "the right to criticize is the precondition for social, economic, and cultural progress." To this Islam Karimov replied that it was "difficult to change people's mentality" when economic conditions are still bad, and reaffirmed that this country had "emerged from the entrails of a totalitarian system," of which he, as a former apparatchik, was the instrument. President Karimov in particular brandished the horrible spectacle of neighboring Tajikistan, where the conflict between the former communist government and an armed Islamic opposition ended in a bloodbath.

The fact remains that the methods of the former leader of the Communist Party, who became president of this Central Asian country of 20 million inhabitants, are scarcely different from those of the former KGB. At least four prominent members of the opposition have been beaten up, some very seriously, by the Uzbek internal security forces in the space of a year.

On the occasion of the visit by his "friend" Francois Mitterrand, the Uzbek president announced that parliamentary elections "which he had promised but which had not been mentioned for months" would take place "before the end of the year." However, in view of the turn things have taken, it is unlikely that the two main opposition parties, now in exile, will be allowed to put forward candidates. Only the former Communist Party (rechristened Democratic People's Party), of which Islam Karimov is the leader, and the two parties recently created at his instigation, are "officially registered."

Karimov Receives Turkish Foreign Minister 29 Apr

LD3004164594 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan received Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin who is on an official visit to our country . [passage omitted]

On the same day, Hikmet Cetin was received at the Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Border Areas Shelled 1 May, Casualties Reported

LD0205101494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 2 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 May—May Day evening and overnight was unsettled on Armenia's borders. The border zone village of Koti, Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, in northeast Armenia was subjected to mortars, artillery, and machine-gun fire from 1845 hours until late in the night from the adjacent Azerbaijani territory, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the republic's Defense Ministry press center. The village of Artanish in the Krasnoselskiy Rayon of Armenia was fired on starting from 2200 hours. There have been casualties.

May Day Communist Rally Gathers Thousands in Yereven

LD0105193394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1751 GMT 1 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 1 May—May Day was marked in Armenia for the first time in several years. The central rally was held in Yerevan under the flags of the USSR and the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and with the portraits of Lenin. According to various estimates, from 10,000 to 60,000 people took part in it. They gathered on the square in front of the opera theater under the slogans: "A New Union With Russia is the Only Salvation for Armenia" and "No to Capital". Sergey Badalyan, the leader of the Armenian Communist Party, called for early presidential and parliamentary elections in Armenia and for Armenia to join the ruble zone. He expressed solidarity with the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, having said that "Zyuganov's party fully controls the political situation in Russia today."

President Backs Constitutional Referendum

944K1124B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[News department report: "Levon Ter-Petrosyan: 'Constitution Is an Accord'"]

[Text] Armenian Republic President L. Ter-Petrosyan spoke yesterday in the parliament. The nation's existence—this is what national accord means, said the president. The nation has always been united by common concerns, customs, ideas of the future. Disagreements, on the other hand, existed between political forces. Nor does Levon Ter-Petrosyan recognize such a notion as national ideology. In his opinion, in a democratic society it is impossible to unite democracy around one idea, since the final outcome may be fascism, as world experience has proven. Armenia must have a national program of democratization and development that, in addition to traits mentioned in its title, must be universal and humanitarian.

"A constitution is an accord! All citizens, as well as different political forces in Armenia, must obey it," said Ter-Petrosyan.

The president believes that a referendum is the most effective way to adopt the basic law. He expressed certainty that the Armenian people will adopt their constitution and thus remove tension in the sociopolitical life of the country. The president said once again that a violent change of authority—the way it had happened in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Tajikistan—is impossible in Armenia. Further on L. Ter-Petrosyan proposed his plan for pulling out of the crisis. First: The parliament expresses confidence in either the Constitutional Commission's draft or the draft of "the six" and without discussion votes on submitting one of the drafts to a referendum vote. Second: If this does not happen, both drafts are put to a referendum and then a second round of the referendum may be needed. Third: In the event the draft of six parties passes, the president and the government resign. Fourth: If the Constitutional Commission's draft passes, new elections for president and National Assembly are held. And fifth: Before this session ends, the parliament must adopt a law on Armenian Republic citizenship and elections to the republic's National Assembly.

France Offers To Promote Karabakh Settlement

LD3004121794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 30 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris April 30 TASS—France is ready to promote the quest for a peace settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh if the Armenian and the Azeri sides wish so. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said this here on Friday during a meeting with his Armenian counterpart Vahan Papazyan. Juppe said France had always been in favour of solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The ministers noted with satisfaction that there are no contradictions in Franco-Armenian bilateral relations. Juppe confirmed that the draft law envisaging the ratification of the agreement on friendship between France and Armenia will be put on the agenda of the spring session of the National Assembly now underway in France.

Kurds Protest Russian Weapons Sales to Turkey

NC2904144694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0926 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From the Press Digest: YERKIR, 29 April edition: "Protest Against the Russian-Turkish Agreement"]

[Text] Today's "Yerkir" newspaper inserts a declaration the "Kurdistan" Committee and the Council of Kurd intelligentsia of Armenia made to express the anxiety on the occasion of the Russian-Turkish military agreement concluded last week. According to the agreement, Russia sells weapon to Turkey.

The declaration says, "This bargain was arranged when Germany, a NATO partner of Turkey, made up its mind to stop weapons delivery to Turkey because these weapons are being finally used against the civil population of Kurdistan.

In the opinion of the authors of the declaration, Turkey uses these weapons not only against the Kurds but also will threaten Armenia—a member of the CIS, a state which participates in the Collective Security Treaty.

The declaration also mentions that these weapons will be delivered by Turkey to Azerbaijan to be used against the civil people of Karabakh. This bargain is aimed not only against the people of Kurdistan fighting for freedom and independence but also against the interests of Russia and its CIS partners.

The "Kurdistan" Committee and the Council of Kurd intelligentsia appeals to the deputies of the State Duma of Russia, social and political organizations, all the people of Russia raise their voice against such bargains.

Embassy Opened in Bucharest

944K1124C Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[News department report: "News From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] An official opening ceremony of the Republic of Armenia Embassy in Romania was held on 24 April in Bucharest. Among those present were Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan; Armenian Ambassador to Romania Georgi Kazinyan; Romania's Secretary of State Ioan Mircea Pascu; and heads of foreign diplomatic representations accredited to Romania. The embassy was blessed by the head of the Armenian congregation in Romania and Bulgaria, Archbishop Tirayr Martikyan.

* * *

On 25 April, Zhirayr Liparutyan, Armenia's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, received the Netherlands ambassador to Russia and Armenia, Baron de Vos Van Steenwijk. In the course of the meeting, they exchanged opinions regarding development of bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the efforts of Armenian leadership in the matter of resolving the Karabakh conflict.

Armenia To Join International Communications Network

NC2904210394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1409 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 29 (SNARK)—The Yerevan center of the Armenian National Network of Data Transmission will allow Armenia to establish communication with 100 National centers in 42 countries of the world, members of the Association of International Communications.

The Center, which will be opened by the end of May, will allow the 5 largest Armenian cities to receive and send information by fax, telex, teletype and E-mail by means of satellite communication. Afterwards, other settlements of Armenia will join the network.

The press-service of the Armenian government told SNARK the Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan visited the Center today. Among other questions there was discussed a possibility of joining the network by the state banks, which will allow to create a united center of bank information.

Azerbaijan

CSCE To Place Observers in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0105123694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Talks on ways of settling the Karabakh conflict between the Karabakh leaders and the CSCE's Minsk group, led by Swedish diplomat Matias Mosberg, ended in Stepanakert on Saturday.

The Karabakh Foreign Ministry's press service informed Interfax that the main accent was put on mechanisms of excluding combat operations. To quote a representative of the press service, the delegation members stated that they would be able to place their observers three days after the conclusion of a long-term cease-fire agreement between the conflicting parties.

The negotiating parties also agreed not to adopt documents unconfirmed by real mechanisms of ruling out combat operations, and emphasized the importance of dovetailing the peace efforts of the CSCE and Russia. They also noted that certain steps had been made in this direction.

On the same day, CSCE military experts and the Karabakh commanders discussed military-technical problems pertaining to the location of observers in the zone of combat operations.

Armenian Troops Said To Continue Fighting

NC3004210094 Baku TURAN in English 1620 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Last night and this morning units of the Armenian troops continued to attack the northern (Geranboy), eastern, (Agdam), and northeastern sections of the front.

The head of the municipal organs of Ter-Ter city, Sardar Gamidov, told TURAN that the Armenian Army has occupied several villages to the north of the Agdamskiy region and is armed with military hardware and artillery.

The same source reports that this morning the Armenian troops continue to advance further into Azeri territory. Presently fierce fighting is taking place in the villages of Shotlanly, Shikhlar and Orta-Gervend. Both parties have incurred losses. Compared with yesterday the Armenian troops advanced 5-7 kilometres further into Azerbaijani territory.

Fighting near the villages of Gyulistan, Talish and Tap-Karakoyunllu in the Geranboy region continues. Geranboy region's leadership told TURAN that Armenian units are transporting additional military hardware as well as forces to the strategically important heights they had seized earlier.

Fighting to the south of the city of Fizuli is taking place but according to military sources, there were no drastic changes last night.

Armenian forces once again violated the truce and judging by all, they don't intend to observe it in the future.

Establishment of Russian ICBM Detection Station Agreed

NC3004061694 Baku TURAN in English 1707 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 29 (TURAN)—As was earlier reported, on April 26 the leader of the Azeri Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, and Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, had discussed military-strategic cooperation between the two countries.

They agreed on the usage of a radio-transmitting station located in the Gabala region of Azerbaijan.

The discussions were over the status of the station and the number of hours of broadcasting. Discussions have been ongoing since 1993.

Moscow's TURAN's correspondent was told by Russian military sources that during the talks Rasul Guliyev agreed to lease the station to the Russian Defense Ministry.

The Russian Defense Minister said that in the near future Azerbaijan's and Russia's governments will ratify the document concerning the functioning of the Gabala radio-transmitting station. Sources from the Russian Defense Ministry report that the station will be assigned the status equivalent of a Russian military base on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The Gabala station was built in the mid-1980's within the framework of the Soviet-version of S.D.I. (Strategic Defense Initiative).

The station provides for the capability to establish a fixed launching of intercontinental ballistic missiles or any other objects in the southern sector of the globe.

According to Russian military experts, the Gabala station is the most needed station in anti-aircraft programmes of the former Soviet Union, and now Russia.

As was learned earlier, in the past, Russian Defense Minister Grachev announced his intention to station 5 military bases in the Caucasus, three in Georgia, one in Armenia and one in Azerbaijan.

Clinton Supports Repeal of Anti-Azerbaijan Amendment

NC3004054094 Baku TURAN in English 1707 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 29 (TURAN)—US President Clinton said that he will annul the amendment of the US Congress to the "Freedom Support Act". At present, according to the amendment, it bans the use of US governmental assistance to Azerbaijan.

This ban also restricts assistance vis-a-vis projects addressing peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. "The solving of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the CSCE Minsk Group framework is the best way to annul" the Freedom Support Act, said the President.

In his reply to President Aliyev, the US President said that he opposes such restrictions since they limit the activity of the United States that is aimed at the support of reform and the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

President Clinton said that transport communications following the Armenia-Nakhichevan route must be unblocked so as to deliver humanitarian assistance to the peaceful population in that region.

The letter also contained an announcement about the newly appointed US representative to the CSCE Minsk Group, Joseph Prescelli, who, according to the US President, will "closely cooperate with representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia and other states to put an end to the war by diplomatic means".

The US President assessed President Aliyev's adherence to settle the conflict within the framework of the Minsk Group and expressed hope that it will establish close cooperation to achieve peace.

The amendments to the "Freedom Support Act", which also includes a ban on humanitarian assistance delivery from US governmental agencies to Azerbaijani governmental entities, was adopted by the US Congress in October 1992.

In March 1994 Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a letter to the US Senate, in which it asked for an annulment due to difficult situation of Azeri refugees.

Deputy Speaker Denies Rumors of Interethnic Tensions

NC2904202394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In recent days some provocateurs and press organs are claiming that the interethnic relations in our republic's northern region have again become aggravated. Our colleague Gulsefa Ahmedova interviewed Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Afiaddin Dzhalilov.

[Begin Dzhalilov recording] I believe that these are mere rumors and are provocative in nature. With a group of parliamentarians we visited [word indistinct] (?Siazen), Khachmasskiy, Kubanskiy, and Kusarskiy Rayons in recent days. We met the local inhabitants. Of course we also met with the Lezghins living in Kusarkiy. I can state unequivocally that the Lezghin people and all the peoples living in that region are involved in Azerbaijan's life, are doing everything for the speedy resolution of the Karabakh problem, and the Azerbaijani and Lezghin peoples, who have lived and created together in that same place, are sparing nothing in this grave historic, political, military, and economic period for Azerbaijan. The conclusion at these meetings was that human rights in Azerbaijan are being protected, every suitable condition is being created for national minorities, and the national minorities in Azerbaijan, including the Russian community, share Azerbaijani people's cares and are resolved to see a speedy end to this war and the Armenian aggression, and a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem.

In a word, I want to say that no matter if they are Lezghins, or Russians, or other ethnic minorities living in Azerbaijan, they state unequivocally in connection with our visit there that they support Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev's political activity. [end recording]

Aliyev Dismisses Interior Minister

LD2904193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] By a decree of Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev, Vagif Novruzov was relieved of his duties as Azerbaijan's interior minister, Aliyev told a meeting of the ministry's top-ranking officials in Baku Friday.

The Azerbaijani presidential press office told INTERFAX facts of corruption, "poor personnel policy" and other negative acts practiced by Novruzov were the reason for the dismissal.

The former first deputy interior minister, Ramil Usubov, was appointed as Azerbaijan's new interior minister.

New Interior Minister Ramil Usubov Profiled

NC2904203394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Here is a short profile of the new interior minister appointed by presidential decree. Ramil Idris ogly Usubov was born in Khodzhaly in 1948. Since the 1970's he has been working in the police organs. He was the interior minister of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] in the years 1987-89. He served as the head of the passports and visa department and then as the head of a desk in the personnel department at the Interior Ministry until June 1993. He has been working again as the interior minister of NAR since June 1993. He is a lawyer by profession, and a graduate of the police academy. He is married and has three children.

Aliyev Dismisses Presidential Press Secretary

LD0105130894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Without giving reasons for his move, Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev fired his press service chief Tofig Abasov.

One of Aliyev's staff workers told Interfax that Abasov was unable to run the president's press service and that a cadre reshuffle was coming.

There are several choices for the vacancy.

Tofig Abasov came to office under the patronage of Azerbaijan's former Secretary of State Lala Gadjiyeva who was made to resign late last year.

Last Friday Aliyev fired his Minister of Internal Affairs Vaghif Novruzov.

Aliyev Appoints City, Rayon Heads

NC2904191694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] With a decree of the Azerbaijani president, Elman Abbas ogly Abbasov has been appointed head of the Nakhichevan city executive administration, Tahir Hilal ogly Aliyev head of Babek Rayon executive administration, and Telman Pasha ogly Khudaverdiyev head of Dzhulfinskiy Rayon executive administration.

New Party Holds Constituent Congress

944K1140A Baku GUNAY in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Constituent Congress of Azerbaijan Democratic Property Owners Party"]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Democratic Property Owners Party [ADPOP] Constituent Congress was held on 23

April in the building of the Azerbaijan State Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet. Some 334 delegates elected from 23 districts and cities of the republic and over 200 representatives of various ministries, organizations, embassies, local executive authorities, and private structures took part in the congress.

Prior to the election of the working bodies of the congress, Makhmud Mamedov, chairman of the organizing committee of the ADPOP, delivered the political report.

Those who spoke in the debate on the report: Mikail Zeynalov (Bilyasuvar), Ibragim Gasanov (Gyadabey), Fazil Dzhafarov (Agdzhabedi), Arif Akhundov (Astara), Rauf Zeynalov (Sumgayyt), Imam Mustafayev (Baku), Mikail Mirza (Baku), Amiraslan Gasymov (Sumgayyt), and others, expressed their opinions concerning the party's future activity and emergence from the situation that has taken shape in the republic. Proposals were expressed on the draft party program and rules, and they were supplemented. The program and rules of the Azerbaijan Democratic Property Owners Party were then adopted.

Sadykh Murtuzayev, member of the organizing committee, spoke in connection with the next item on the agenda—election of the chairman of the ADPOP. He observed that the party's successful activity would depend primarily on the moral, political, and professional qualities of its leader. He nominated Makhmud Nadir Mamedov ogly, chairman of the ADPOP organizing committee, for the position of party chairman. Makhmud Mamedov's candidacy was put to the vote, and he was unanimously elected ADPOP chairman.

The directive bodies—a 40-man party Supreme Assembly and an 11-man Central Auditing Commission—were elected. The congress adopted a statement in connection with the current political and economic situation in the republic. This completed the business of the ADPOP Constituent Congress.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Welcomed in Former Zviadist Region

LD2904205194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] On 29 April Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze made a brief visit to western Georgia. Here is Mikhail Mamulashvili reporting from Tbilisi:

[Mamulashvili] The main aim of Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the western part of the republic was the desire to see for himself the state of affairs in the regions. This time, the head of state visited two rayons - Zugdidskiy and Tsalendzhikhskiy - which until recently were at the center of the Zviadist movement. You will recall that it was here that the main events during the armed confrontation between government troops and armed supporters of the ex-president took place. The last time Shevardnadze was in Tsalendzhikha was two years ago. Back then he was obliged to endure reproaches and insults from people who considered Zviad Gamsakhurdia the only legitimate leader of the country.

On 29 April, things were different. The press service of the Georgian head of state informed me that Shevardnadze was given the warm welcome typically accorded by the inhabitants of that region. He met with the inhabitants of Tsalendzhikha, the heads of the local administration, representatives of the intelligentsia and local workers.

Speaking to the inhabitants of Tsalendzhikha, Shevardnadze stressed that Georgia is now going through a bad patch. We want to build a democratic state and that's why we all have to work instead of sitting down with our arms folded.

Touching on the situation in Abkhazia—and inhabitants of Tsalendzhikha are particularly anxious about this question since their rayon borders Abkhazia and there are a large number of refugees in Tsalendzhikha itself—Shevardnadze said that all matters and problems connected with that region would in all probability be solved in the near future.

The head of state was accompanied on his trip to western Georgia by Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament, Prime Minster Otar Patatsia, and other officials.

Shevardnadze: Russian Cooperation Needed To Form Army

LD0205103794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze believes that a Georgian national army cannot be established without cooperation with Russia. In his traditional radio interview today he stressed that a new stage had begun in the formation of the Georgian army, connected with the appointment of a former general in the Russian Army Vardiko Nadibaidze to the post of Georgian minister of defense.

Shevardnadze, Indian Businessmen Discuss Trade

LD0105103694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Referring to the Georgian head of state's press service, the CONTACT news agency reports that yesterday, Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze met Operia Mindit, a director of a group of Indian companies, and representatives of Georgian business circles.

The conversation touched upon issues of establishing and developing economic cooperation between Georgia and India. The visitors said that it would be advisable if a Georgian representation and an Indian-Georgian center for trade, culture, and friendship opened in India. The conversation also touched upon credits to be allotted as humanitarian aid, cooperation in the spheres of sea and air transport, as well as [word indistinct] and food production.

Shevardnadze thanked the visitors for the interest they demonstrated toward Georgia and said that relations between Georgia and India have centuries-long traditions. Prospects for the extension of the relations have now emerged.

Commission Presents Draft of Territorial System

LD0105154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1209 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Georgia's Constitutional Commission worked out the draft of political and territorial system for the country, a member of the Commission told Interfax. The draft provides for dividing Georgia into 12 territories, Abkhazia and Ajaria among them, though with a special political status. This provision does not relate to South Ossetia.

In the meantime, as Interfax learned from reliable sources, the Georgian leadership is planning to hold talks with the present South Ossetian administration concerning the political status of that territory. On instructions from Eduard Shevardnadze a special group was formed to conduct these talks. The talks are to take place in mid May.

UN Mission To Oversee Return of Refugees

MK3004104094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Yuriy Simonyan report in the "Georgia" column: "Refugees Will Be Returning to Abkhazia Under UN Supervision. The Latest Session of the Quadripartite Commission"]

[Text] The second session of the quadripartite commission on the return of refugees and deported persons to Abkhazia was held in the Lazurnaya hotel in Sochi for two days. The commission includes representatives of Georgian and Abkhaz sides, the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the Russian Federal Migration Service, as well as the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The commission's first working meeting, which took place on 8 and 9 April, prepared a protocol in which the sides presented the main principles of their upcoming activities, but the document was signed only at the second meeting. The sides agreed that registration of refugees will be effected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees mission, in collaboration with the regional authorities. It was decided to create an expert group that will work out questionnaires. The refugees will fill out these papers under the supervision of High Commissioner representatives. All the data about those willing to return to Abkhazia will be entered into the computer and stay at the disposal and under the control of the UN mission. The protocol stresses that all personal particulars may not be revealed.

The meeting heard a report by the UN mission on the results of its trip to areas of western Georgia and Galskiy Rayon in Abkhazia.

Expert groups were set up on legal matters, information support, and planning. A draft procedure for the registration of those who wish to return was considered.

A statement was adopted, stressing that the absence of peacekeeping forces in the zone of conflict hinders the return of the refugees. True, the sides' positions on this issue differ somewhat. The Abkhaz side continues to insist that peacekeeping forces should be introduced not on the entire territory but only along the line of confrontation between Georgian and Abkhaz forces, which passes along the Inguri river. Leonid Lakerbaya, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazia Council of Ministers, believes that only after this can the return of the refugees begin. The head of the Abkhaz delegation confirmed that the republic's Abkhaz population should be prepared for this process.

The session defined the agenda for the next meeting on 11 May.

General Presents Plan for Refugees' Repatriation

PM2904131194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 Single Edition p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Georgia: Resolving the Fate of Refugees"]

[Text] Judging by many reports in the local press, the mechanism for returning refugees to their native regions and guarantees of their safety have become a bone of contention at the Georgian-Abkhazian talks which are being conducted with Russian mediation and under the auspices of the United Nations. Putting forward the Georgian plan to resolve these problems, Major General Vladimir Chikovani, commander of the republic's Internal Troops and member of the Georgian delegation at the Geneva talks, remarked in conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the Russian side is taking a constructive stance in Geneva and showing its committment to bringing peace to Abkhazia and resolving the fate of hundreds of thousands of civilians forcibly expelled from their native lands. The Georgian plan also met with the support of UN representatives at these talks.

The main thrust of the Georgian plan, the general said, is the need to monitor the withdrawal of all armed formations with their weapons and combat equipment from all the lines of active confrontation in the conflict zone and from all the regions of Abkhazia to which it is planned to return the refugees.

The Georgian plan is based exclusively on the principles and provisions of the quadrilateral agreements, and stems from the logic of the nonresumption of military operations and the termination of the conflict.

Four Abkhazian Soldiers Killed by 'Saboteurs'

LD2904130594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Four Abkhazian servicemen have been killed and the same number wounded by Georgian saboteurs in the Gali District of Abkhazia in the morning of April 29, Interfax was told by Abkhazian Defense Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev.

He said that this was another act which flagrantly violated the documents on settlement in Abkhazia signed in Moscow on April 4 by representatives of the Abkhazian and Georgian sides with the mediation of the United Nations, the CSCE and Russia.

Sosnaliyev said that Abkhazian Army will have to retaliate to curb banditry of armed detachments sent by the Georgian side.

Parties Differ on Time for Parliament Elections

MK2904122094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] The National Democratic Party of Georgia has proposed the holding of new parliamentary elections this fall. Some other parties, in particular the Union of Traditionalists of Georgia, oppose such a proposal, believing no parliamentary elections should be held before fall 1995, until the term of office of the current parliament of Georgia is up.

Communist Party Seeks Parliament Seats

MK3004114094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Georgia"]

[Text] On 28 April, the KOMUNISTI newspaper published an appeal by the Georgian Communist Workers Party [GCWP] Central Committee to the republic's citizens. The document points out that the desire of Georgian peoples to get rid of everything that is negative and "alien to a socialist way of life" has not been fulfilled. In the opinion of the document's authors, "by the ambitions of Georgia's national-liberation movement and with an active support from former communists, the country has been thrown back to feudalist fragmentation." Georgia, the document says, has become a beggar on an international scale, and its people, proud and happy in the not so distant past, are currently suffering from hunger and poverty.

The GCWP Central Committee thinks that the policy of denying any protection and depriving the population of the right to exist amounts to a downright genocide and extermination of one's own people. All this is the reason for an unrestrained outflow of the population, including Georgians, from the country. Georgia's true communists, the document says, do have a plan for overcoming the crisis.

"We are ready to assume responsibility for the fate of the country, but for this to be done we must become a party that has parliamentary seats"—is how the party's immediate prospects are described. "By joint efforts, in an open dialogue let us expose the doings and true political faces of demagogues, idle talkers, and turncoats both within the parliament walls and outside them."

The GCWP Central Committee urged people to elect its representatives to official posts. So far it is hard to say what influence the GCWP may have on various sectors of the population, but the documents it has been issuing come to the attention of many people. In a number of Georgian regions former party activists are trying to resuscitate district and city organizations of the Georgian Communist Party.

Estonia

Defense Chief on Possible Russian Weapons Purchase

WS0205084794 Tallinn BNS in English 1235 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 30, BNS—It is absolutely possible that Estonia would buy anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons from Russia, the commander in chief of the Estonian defense forces said.

Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln in remarks to reporters about his last week's visit to Moscow and talks with Russian army leadership said that Estonia wants to buy high-quality weapons at a low price. "If it is possible for us to get them from Russia, we'll buy weapons from there," he said.

Einseln quoted the chief of Russia's General Staff, Col. Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov as reconfirming that Russia will pull its troops from Estonia. "But we didn't talks about dates at the meeting," he said.

The Estonian commander in chief, who visited Moscow on Apr. 20- 22, also proposed to the Russian Defense Ministry to set up a joint work group that would be able to quickly resolve all problems that may emerge in connection with the withdrawal from Estonia. Kolesnikov had said the proposal would be taken for consideration.

Also discussed at the meetings were prospects for military cooperation between Estonia and Russia after the Russian troops will have left Estonia.

"We don't think that our contacts with the Russian military will end after the troop withdrawal. We must also look into the future and make clear the possible directions of working closely," Einseln said.

The Estonian commander in chief has earlier said that the country could start sending its cadets to be trained for officers at Russian military colleges.

Commander in Chief Returns From Brussels Visit

WS2904200894 Tallinn BNS in English 1846 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 29, BNS—The commander in chief of the Estonian defense forces, Major General Aleksander Einseln returned from a visit to Brussels today. Einseln participated in a meeting of commanders of armed forces of the countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC].

The meeting discussed ways to develop the NATO Partnership for Peace program, and also, the formation of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion, Einseln said at a press conference in Tallinn today.

The peacekeeping company to be set up in Estonia under the joint Baltic force scheme will be ready to participate in joint maneuvers of the international peacekeeping forces in the Netherlands, due in late October, the Estonian general said at a meeting of the NACC peacekeeping group in Brussels Thursday [28 April].

A unit of 20 will be sent to participate in the joint maneuvers from Estonia, the country's commander in chief said today. "If we want to join the NATO some time in the future, we must start taking part in such kind of events as early as possible," he said.

At a joint neeting of the armed force commanders of NACC and the NATO Committee for Military Issues on Wednesday, Einseln expressed hope that the Baltic peacekeeping battalion will be ready to fulfill its tasks from November 1995.

Einseln told reporters today that the formation of the Baltic battalion had gained great support. There exists a readiness to come in with assistance in training, and possibly, also for the part of equipment, he added.

According to information obtained by BNS, Einseln has submitted to the Defense Ministry a draft ruling on the creation of the detached peacekeeping company, or the Estonian part of the joint Baltic force. The ruling had to be adopted by the government.

The draft says the company would be set up as a separate legal entity under the Estonian Defense Ministry, with its own seal and symbols. The draft foresees that the ministry would draw up the lists of the new company's structure and composition, and submit to the government for approval a draft budget of the new unit. The ministry and the Central Staff must see to it that the unit be manned in due time.

The Foreign Ministry will formally apply to the UN Headquarters for authorization of the new peacekeeping unit and its submission to the UN peacekeeping force.

Estonia now has also its representative, Lieutenant Peeter Lans, at the NATO headquarters in Brussels to oversee the country's cooperation with NATO and activity under the Partnership for Peace plan.

Coalition Meets To Iron Out Policy Direction

WS2904124394 Tallinn BNS in English 0917 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 29, BNS—The parties in Estonia's governing coalition started a session of talks in the Lohusalu seaside resort near Tallinn Thursday [28 April]. The two days of talks were to focus on the priorities in legislative activity and outlining the 1995 state budget.

Work goes on in a number of fields, such as farming and social security, governmental spokesman Ain Saarna said. Also discussed will be the implementation of the law on aliens and extending the deadline for submitting the residence and working permit applications for non-citizens.

"Neither political problems nor the government reform will be officially discussed. There is also no reason to think that these issues would be taken for discussion at the Lohusalu meeting," the spokesman said.

The meeting's atmosphere this time is much more serious and business-like than it was at a similar meeting last year, said MP Andrus Villem. "One can feel that people know what they want and what they are doing," he said.

"There are no major differences in opinions within the government coalition at present," Villem said, adding that all disputes concerned only details of minor importance.

All political parties in the Estonian government coalition take part in the two-day meeting. Also most of the Cabinet members are present.

Thursday's meeting was presided by Prime Minister Mart Laar.

Central Bank Head Returns From North America

WS0205084394 Tallinn BNS in English 1703 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 30, BNS—The president of the Bank of Estonia, Siim Kallas, in his remarks on arrival from a visit to the United States and Canada said Estonia could boast being increasingly popular among politicians and business leaders on the American continent for its quick economic progress.

Estonia's achievements in the economic reform are widely known and there is permanent interest in learning about the factors that have brought about this relative success, he said.

Kallas during the past week and a half participated in the work of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund. He also attended a conference on the topic of the independence of central banks in Eastern Europe.

The Bank of Estonia president had a number of meetings with business leaders and politicians in New York and Toronto, Canada.

Kallas in his comments to BNS today said that even Estonia's rapidly increased inflation rates for the past few months had not diminished the country's popularity. "Of course, I often had to answer to questions on that issue," the head of the central bank said. But it still seemed that the inflation rates have not affected the country's overall standing, he added.

Kallas said that experts at the IMF had no fear at all about Estonia's high inflation rates. IMF's main advice to Estonia is to be patient, and the inflation wave goes over, he said.

First Quarter Export, Import Data Detailed

WS0205094494 Tallinn BNS in English 1704 GMT 1 May 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] According to customs statistics, Estonia exported in the first three months of the year 3,644.6 mln kroons' worth of goods (including 1,385.4 mln kroons in March), while its imports amounted to 4,804.2 mln kroons (1,888.4 mln kroons in March).

First quarter's imports exceeded exports by 1,159.6 mln kroons. In other words, Estonia's foreign trade deficit amounts roughly to one third of the export volume.

Compared to February, export grew in March by 224.9 mln and import, by 576.6 mln kroons. Foreign trade shortfall jumped to 503.7 mln kroons in March, up by 352.3 mln kroons from February.

Estonia received from January through March 77.4 mln kroons' worth of humanitarian aid, which accounted for 1.6 percent of the imports.

The country traded in the first quarter with partners in 97 states and brought in a positive balance with 45 of them.

Estonia's major trade partners and their share of total turnover in the first quarter were as follows (the figures for March are in parentheses):

		percent of total export	percent of total import
Russia	25.0 (24.2)	Finland	37.1 (37.0)
Finland	19.0 (20.6)	Russia	13.7 (15.1)
Sweden	10.0 (10.2)	Sweden	10.5 (10.0)
Germany	8.3 (7.6)	Germany	8.8 (8.9)
Latvia	8.0 (7.5)	Netherlands	4.6 (4.8)
Lithuania	5.9 (5.9)	Denmark	3.3 (3.0)

Export to Finland increased in March the most, by 44.4 mln kroons, followed by Russia with a 34.9-mln and Sweden with a 21.1- mln-kroon increase. Import from Finland grew by 191.3 mln, from Russia by 154.8 mln, from Germany by 50.3 mln, and from the Netherlands by 30.8 mln kroons.

The major groups of goods exported and imported in the first quarter were as follows (the figures for March are in parentheses):

	percent of export
agricultural produce	23.0 (20.4)
clothing	11.0 (11.5)
non-precious metals	9.3 (13.6)
vehicles	8.8 (9.4)
timber, wood products	8.5 (9.6)

	percent ofimport
agricultural produce	17.5 (17.5)
mineral fuel, oil	13.0 (15.2)
vehicles	10.7 (10.0)
equipment	10.4 (10.0)
electrical machines	8.8 (8.9)

The customs statistics cover the goods that are declared on the border. They do not include data on the export and import of foreign cash, electricity and gas.

Latvia

Reportage on President, Prime Minister's Moscow Trip

Talks Held With Russian Envoy

WS2904125694 Riga LETA in English 1200 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 29 LETA—On Thursday [28 April] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis met the Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh, and once more confirmed his intention to go to Moscow to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The President's press service reports that Guntis Ulmanis stressed he is ready to sign the first out of the four initialed agreements and as to the rest everything depends on the result of work experts are carrying out in Jurmala.

Rannikh pointed out that some countries make it clear for Moscow that in case the treaties are not signed full responsibility for it will rest with Moscow. He said that Yeltsin has the four treaties on his desk and is expecting they will be signed in a package and added: "with supplementary protocols." Moscow accepts the possibility of signing one general agreement by the presidents and the other three rest by ministers in the presidents' presence.

If the agreement will be reached on the protocol to the fourth treaty which would be acceptable for Latvia the rest of the treaties could be signed on the ministers' level, the Latvian side believes.

Troop Withdrawal Agreement To Be Signed

WS2904193494 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 29, BNS—Presidents Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia will sign an agreement Saturday [30 April] on the withdrawal of 12,000 Russian troops from the Baltic country by Aug. 31.

The Latvian president will be accompanied on the visit to Moscow by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs and other officials.

The key to the accord was an agreement this week by negotiators in Jurmala, Latvia, on the issue of social guarantees for 20,000 retired Russian servicemen living in Latvia.

A special protocol on the military pensioners will be attached to the main withdrawal package, chief Russian negotiator Sergei Zotov said Friday.

According to Russian and Latvian officials, the protocol says both sides will help servicemen who want to leave Latvia, and will set up a special fund to assist them.

"This document removed the last objections which the Latvian side had regarding the whole package. Therefore, the road was cleared for the visit of Latvia's president to Moscow," Zotov told the Interfax news agency.

Officials in Moscow and Riga confirmed that Ulmanis will sign the entire package—the main agreement, three related accords and the Jurmala protocol—in the Russian capital.

The accords would include one on social guarantees for the Russian military for the period until the final withdrawal of the troops, a rent agreement for the Skrunda radar station that Russia is going to keep under its control during the next 4+1.5 years, and an accord on social guarantees for the retired servicemen.

Latvian chief negotiator Aivars Vovers declined to elaborate on the concessions his country had made to reach a consensus with Russia. He said it would be difficult to properly understand the nuances without reading the whole text of the agreements.

Ulmanis' political adviser John Eichmanis said the amount of rent that Russia will pay for the Skrunda base was the last issue that remained outstanding.

"We expect it to be settled in Moscow," he told The Associated Press. But Eichmanis expressed doubt whether the withdrawal package would be raftified by Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, which has a large percentage of Communists and nationalists, or the equally nationalist Latvian parliament.

Latvian chief negotiator Aivars Vovers said the issue of the amount of rent to be paid by Russia for the Skrunda station was to be settled before the meeting of the presidents in Moscow.

The leader of the Russian delegation, Sergei Zotov called the latest negotiations a waste of time that Latvia had forced upon Russia. He accused Latvia for lacking flexibility since the very beginning of the talks, despite what, he added, an agreement was reached.

The Russian Ambassador to Latvia, Alexander Rannihk, in a conversation with the Latvian president said that a number of foreign countries had indicated Moscow would be held responsible if the talks with Latvia ended without an agreement. Moscow officials also say it is possible that the presidents on Saturday will sign only the main agreements and that the rest of the documents would be signed by the prime ministers in the presence of the heads of state. Yeltsin has said he is ready to sign all four documents in the package.

About 130,000 former Soviet soldiers have pulled out of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia since the Baltics' regaining of their independence in 1991. None are left in Lithuania, but about 12,000 remain in Latvia and 2,300 in Estonia. After Latvia has signed the accords on Saturday, Estonia will be the only Baltic country not to have reached an agreement with Russia on troop withdrawal.

Ulmanis Speaks Before Talks

LD2904200794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Speech by President Guntis Ulmanis in Riga on eve of departure for talks in Moscow—live]

[Text] Esteemed viewers, I hope that many of you will have successfully ended another working week, while at the weekend there is spring cleaning to be done. For the government, parliament, and the president, however, one of the most crucial visits to Moscow, and one of the most difficult working days, will take place tomorrow.

This was not an easy decision, and at the basis of it were those processes which have troubled the minds of many of you. I think that this is a visit which in many ways is a first in history. It is the first visit by the state president to democratic Russia. It is the first summit meeting between Latvia and Russia in unprecedented circumstances and conditions. Democratic Russia want to achieve its goals by talking to a free and sovereign Latvia. This path is taken not only by Russia and Latvia; it has been created with the participation of many European countries as well, especially in the past two weeks. And perhaps it is the views of the European countries, the views of the European Union, the letters and messages from leaders of many countries, and the promises, as well as the practical work of giving material support to these processes, that have inclined us to the decision to go to Moscow and commence political dialogue.

What are the basic aims and tasks in setting off on this short but crucial road? In the first place our task is to bring about, without reservations and by the appointed date of 31 August, the departure from Latvia of the last soldier of the Russian army. There is proof that this process is by no means easy in the facts of the past few days, that the withdrawal of the Russian army is proceeding with great difficulty and complexity, and quite often the tasks that are are already set today are not being fulfilled. I think that in accepting such an agreement, our government, our Ministry of Defense, will have to make great efforts for these soldiers to be really withdrawn. We must ensure that Skrunda acquires the status of a military institution under civilian control, so it would not be possible at all, even in theory, and as a the result of a mistake, as happened recently, to acquire the status of a military base. We must ensure that soon after the signing of this agreement the new monster of Skrunda is demolished, so that it can never return, and there can never even be any more talk of the reinstating of this military base.

I think that in the past week two very essential improvements or supplements have been achieved: they are, on the creation of the repatriation fund, on the functioning and significance of this repatriation fund. I am convinced that through this repatriation fund many former soldiers and military personnel will have a chance to leave Latvia in a civilized way.

And another achievement, if it can be called anything in this difficult struggle, is that we have received from Russia the number of those retired military personnel—22,320—who will be subject to the application of these agreements and laws. So, if we talk of the fourth agreement, and whether it will be signed at all, it could be a matter of the futures of 22,320 people, and Latvia will one way or another bear its civilized responsibilities only for the fate of those people in the social (?sphere).

I think that this kind of checking will allow us to remove the range of responsibilities rumored recently - that there are 100,000 150,000, or 200,000 in Latvia—no, this agreement covers only that number that will be checked and monitored every year. I think that the last two questions we are to talk about, namely the commencement of political dialogue and the future settlement of economic relations, are less important.

We are taking with us more than 10 agreements, about which there will definitely be talks, and I think they will allow many economic industrialists, farmers, producers, to breathe freely, because the way to the eastern market, in my opinion, is today after all somewhat easier than the way to the western market.

And I cannot speak about the last question that we are definitely to discuss at our meeting with Yeltsin - that is the question of our moral, of our spiritual responsibility in the face of those forces from which we have still not freed ourselves today. They are the consequences of the occupation, they are the consequences that our people is still living through since the deportations of 1940 and 1949. I am convinced that the Russian leadership will acknowledge the criminality of these consequences, acknowledge the destructive effect of these consequences, not only on the Latvian people, but also on many other peoples.

And in conclusion I want to confess that this journey is undoubtedly very complex and very hard, and I can say with certainty that I am travelling with a (?heavy) heart and doubts—but not doubts about the road that Latvia is taking. Here neither the president nor the government has any doubts. But we have doubts about whether the new democratic Russia will be able to receive and accept us - not as the near abroad, not as a possible sphere of influence, but as a sovereign independent state.

I know, and I am acquainted with, the great hospitality of the Russian people. I hope that the Russian government, too, will be able to comprehend these efforts being made by the Latvian people. I would like our delegation to have as its travelling provisions not only those harsh words and critical remarks you have made; it has also done much good in assessing our work for us; but also to have wishes for us for a bit of endurance, a bit of strength, patience and persistence in this lengthy, but for Latvia very important, process.

Calls Talks 'Cordial,' Frank

LD0105193094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 1 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga May 1 TASS—"Russian President Boris Yeltsin might visit Latvia, the time of the visit will be agreed upon," said Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, addressing a news conference devoted to the results of his visit to Moscow. Gulmanis highly assessed the results of his visit, saying that the Present Russian leadership conducts a favorable policy towards Latvia.

On Saturday, Russian president Boris Yeltsin said in the Kremlin after signing Russo-Latvian documents that a package of bilateral agreements is expected to be signed during Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Latvia.

During the talks between Russian and Latvian officials held at the top level, the sides signed an agreement on the order of withdrawal of Russian troops from the Latvian territory, an agreement on legal status of the Russian radar station in Scrunda, an agreement on social welfare for Russian servicemen and their families and retired servicemen on the Latvian territory.

Participants in the news conference held today and attended by Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs pointed out that the talks in the Kremlin were held an a cordial and frank atmosphere. "When the dialogue began, we dropped all apprehensions about possible pressure from Russia. The dialogue was held in a free, easy and democratic form," Ulmanis said.

Dwelling on the main subject of the Moscow talks, Ulmanis pointed out that "after Grachev said that Russia intends to withdraw its troops much earlier than August 31, I became sure that the Russian army would go soon." " We shall be able to step up the process rather than merely monitor it as it was before" Ulmanis said. "If we manage to lay a foundation to mutual confidence on the basis of the signed documents, the relations between the two countries will soon enter a new historic stage," the Latvian president said.

A similar opinion was expressed by Valdis Birkavs, who emphasised that Latvia needs " long-term, advantageous economic ties with Russia." Therefore, Birkavs said that an agreement on granting Latvia a most-favoured nation status in trade with Russia is one of the most important achievements of the visit.

Before the visit to Moscow began, Ulmanis, in an interview with ITAR-TASS, welcomed the development of mutually advantageous ties with Russia. He pointed out that not only "a window to Europe", but "doors" must be left open through Baltic ports. The sincerity of the Latvian president arises no doubt, since thanks to his energetic efforts a Russo-Latvian conflict over the arrest of two Russian generals was prevented. According to the Latvian president, this incident "made the Latvian leadership look at itself from a critical point of view."

During the Moscow meeting the Russian and Latvian presidents showed tact and respect for each other. The Russian side took into account the Latvian president's request to return to Latvia the remains of the former Latvian President Karlis Ulmanis who was interned by the Stalinist regime in the 1940s and buried in former Soviet Turkmenistan. The now Latvian president is a grand nephew of Karlis Ulmanis and he believes that his destiny is to establish peace and accord in society.

Ulmanis is the fifth consecutive Latvian president and the first president after Latvia regained its independence. He is married and has two children. He enjoys great popularity as a politician and invariably ranks first in popularity in public opinion polls.

Comment on Agreements with Russia

LD0105221394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 1 May 94

[News conference by President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs in Riga following visit to Moscow—live]

[Excerpts] [Ulmanis] Hello, esteemed viewers and listeners. We have not yet completely recovered from the strenuous day yesterday. And today, before I came to this meeting, I thought over what was really done, what the results of that day's work are,and what conclusion can be made from all that has happened.

I would like to say that in very many aspects this visit was really a historic one and it was the first in the history of a free Latvia and a new democratic Russia. We were going to Moscow with certain doubts and it would be needless to say how carefully we were preparing. Perhaps, not everyone knows that the last three nights both Mr. Birkavs and myself spent in continuous consultations with various political forces and members of our government in order to work out this final version before going to Moscow. [passage omitted]

As soon as the talks began, the anxiety concerning certain imperialistic thinking and possible pressure from the Russian side in fact to a certain extent disappeared from our minds. And the dialogue proceeded in a free, unforced and I would even like to say democratic form. [passage omitted]

President Yeltsin, as far as he was able and willing, firmly and openly stated to me that now Russia does not have aspirations to have Latvia in its sphere of interests, that Russia does not think of any kind of regaining the governorship, and that Russia thinks that Latvia has to become a stable, free, and sovereign European state. During the whole course of the talks I did not feel that there was any tendency which would make me considerably doubt or reconsider what had been said.

In discussions with President Yeltsin, at the beginning we touched on the issues of the fate of the two peoples, the fate of the Russian people and the Latvian people, about the huge deportations which affected the Latvian people, about the deportations of 1940 and 1949. And remembering this, President Yeltsin categorically condemned personally and on his government's behalf those mass deportations and said that he would also publicly state this everywhere where it could be heard and where one would be able to find out his views. It should be said that he kept this promise and with certain satisfaction I was listening to him when he was addressing the press and reporters. [passage omitted]

We agreed that the agreements signed were a theoretical part, a part on paper, of the agreement, and practical steps have to follow now. These steps should be such that they do not offend either Latvia's honor or the honor of Latvian citizens, or the wrong done to the deported, or the principles of Latvia's sovereignty and independence. We agreed that the number of the military, the amount of pensions paid to them and their future fate will be strictly controlled.

An agreement was reached with the Russian side—the minister of defense and the minister of foreign affairs also took part in it, their names, Grachev and Kozyrev, are widely known to you—about the creation of a repatriation fund and both Russia and Latvia, as well as other European states, will participate in the fund.

Speaking about the withdrawal of troops from Latvia, I expressed doubts on whether Russia is ready to withdraw its troops by 31 August and I wondered whether their promises will not be fulfilled. A statement by the minister of defense said in response that they will do everything possible to have the troops withdrawn much earlier than 31 August. Although 31 August was left in the agreement, a verbal agreement was reached between us that the troops will be withdrawn before 31 August. Various figures and various dates were mentioned. I think that we can safely say now that this to a certain extent depends on both our Ministry of Defense and other ministries, whether they are able to get actively involved in this process. The agreement provides the foundation on which they can get to work. I got the impression that the troops will very soon leave Latvian territory.

We have received full guarantees from the Russian side and once again a verbal assurance from Mr. Yeltsin that the issue of the status of a military base was an unfortunate erroneous process and that it is a lesson not only for Latvia to be more careful, but also a lesson for Russia itself to follow more carefully the drafting of its documents and the work of its executive and its corresponding departments. Once again an agreement was reached that that facility should be a military facility under civilian control [as heard]. There was no difference of opinion as to who and how controls it and that that site should never become a military base on Latvian territory. And it was also added that the Russian side does not have at the moment any grounds, any plans or any activity aimed at creating military bases in Latvia. [passage omitted]

[Birkavs] Hello, esteemed viewers and listeners. Whether yesterday will be a historic day and whether it will stay in the people's consciousness as a significant positive step now depends on us. Practically today we can go to the new Skrunda facility and begin to dismantle it. But let us not perhaps hurry in this way, that involves considerable work. And for this purpose, the state coffers will immediately receive $3 million. These are practical matters, however, which we can easily tackle in the short term.

We need long-term favorable economic relations with Russia. I therefore consider the signing of a protocol, which states that most favored nation status in trade comes into effect for Latvia and Russia on 1 June 1994, as one of the greatest results of yesterday's talks. In order to fully settle this issue and to sign corresponding documents, Russian Premier Chernomyrdin will come to Latvia in the second half of May and the corresponding documents will be signed.

I would like to say to the residents of Skrunda and all the residents of the surrounding villages and rural districts who are affected by the Skrunda radar that my request from Russia on the issue of how much should the rent payment for Skrunda be is very simple: Pay the sum that is worthy of Russia. The sum on which we agreed may be assessed differently. It is two and a half times bigger than was initially promised by the Russian side, but it is considerably smaller than what I would like it to be—it is $5 million a year. I promise that this money will be granted to the residents who will still be suffering from the radar for four years. [passage omitted]

We are facing a new historic period and we should not look back so much, we should look forward. I invite all the critics of the agreement to carefully follow whether the clauses of the agreement are complied with. We will try to do everything possible to improve relations with Russia in the course of compliance with the agreement, but so that Latvian people do not suffer either. Thank you. [passage omitted]

Government Approves Treaty Supplement

WS2904194994 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 29, BNS—Latvian Cabinet, meeting urgently on the eve of Moscow summit, accepted the protocol at the initial agreement on social rights of Russian military retirees in Latvia.

In addition, the government set up the country's delegation for the April 30 Moscow summit and considered the amount for rent for the radar facility at Skrunda.

The ministers decided that Russia should pay for Skrunda 130 million U.S. dollars per year but it could also remunerate the worth of the sum in natural gas, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs told reporters after the government session.

Latvian officials are now negotiating the proposal with Russian counterparts in Moscow.

In another action, the Cabinet decided to announce a competition for the dismantling of the new building of the Skrunda radar compound. For the purpose, foreign countries have already extended 3 million U.S. dollars.

Birkavs prognosticated the interest in the dismantling would be large. The task, however, may pose technical problems because the building was constructed safe against nuclear attacks.

The government also ruled to form a working part to create a repatriation fund for Russian war pensioners.

Birkavs said that the U.S. Government allotted for the fund 2.5 million dollars in housing vouchers. Consequently, the officers won't be able to use the money for other purposes, Birkavs noted.

Commenting on the agreement signature, Birkavs said Latvia would propose that it is signed by two representatives of each country.

Birkavs described Russia's commitment to submit Latvia a list of military retirees as the principal achievement of the additional protocol.

Lithuania

President Brazausksas Receives Message From Yeltsin

LD2904172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received Russian Ambassador Nikolay Obertyshev who handed him a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Following the meeting, Brazauskas told journalists that he had received a response from Yeltsin to his letter of early April saying that some of the Lithuanian-Russian agreements signed by the two men in November 1993 had not been observed.

Brazauskas said that Yeltsin's letter called for activating bilateral talks. He thought that both countries wanted that.

He added that even before the letter was received the Lithuanian leaders had discussed steps to be taken in the near future. In particular, it was desirable that a Russian team come to Lithuania to discuss Russian transit across that country, visa matters and other urgent matters that had not been covered by agreements between the two governments.

Brazauskas said that Virgilijus Bulovas, head of the Lithuanian working group handling talks with CIS member states, would complete shortly the study of a Russian draft agreement on transit.

Dainius Trinkunas, Lithuanian president's foreign policy adviser, told Interfax that Yeltsin expressed his gratitude for an invitation to visit Lithuania. The date of his visit will be agreed on later.

Yeltsin Links Economic Relations With Transit

WS2904195194 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius Apr 29, BNS—The president of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas, on Friday [29 April] received the Russian ambassador to Lithuania, Nikolai Obiortyshev, who presented a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin's letter came as answer to a letter sent by Brazauskas earlier this month.

Brazauskas told reporters after the meeting that the Russian president links the implementation of economic treaties with the problem of Russian transit to the Kaliningrad region through Lithuania.

Russian transit through Lithuanian territory remains the main stumbling block hindering economic and trade relations between the two countries. The Lithuanian leadership raised the issue on numerous occasions on the international level. Lithuania and other European nations need to know whether such positions reflect the working style of Moscow functionaries or Russia's political line, Brazauskas said in his speech at the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly April 14.

After his meeting with Obiortyshev, the Lithuanian president emphasized that Lithuania cannot assent to such a policy. He said the Lithuanian-Russian economic treaties signed last November were a result of only one stage of talks, but transit to Kaliningrad and visa requirements are matters of further negotiation.

But Brazauskas called "acceptable" Yeltsin's proposal to continue talks because "the interests and tendencies" of both countries coincide.

Brazauskas said the Russian ambassador told him that the official Moscow values his initiative to exchange letters between presidents. Obiortyshev said the process would be "a good impulse" to bilateral talks.

The Russian diplomat said relations between Lithuania and Russia are not bad, but neither of the sides is satisfied with their "tempo." Obiortyshev noted, however, that Russia's relations with Lithuania have progressed much further than relations with Estonia and Latvia, as well as other former Soviet republics.

President Receives Telegram From Ukraine's Kravchuk

WS0205083894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1948 GMT 29 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 488]

[Text] Vilnius, April 29, ELTA—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk sent a telegram to his Lithuanian counterpart Algirdas Brazauskas saying he welcomed Lithuanian-Polish friendship and co- operation treaty.

Kravchuk said in the telegram: "I am sure the important political act will have positive influence on the further development of Lithuanian-Polish relations and on the strengthening of confidence, security and stability atmosphere in the European continent".

Vilnius Announces Cutback in Russian Radio, TV

LD2904194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Director of the technical center of Lithuanian radio and television, Yuosas Niverauskas, has reported that from May 2 there will be a considerable reduction in the broadcasting of the Russian Ostankino television channel in Lithuania.

He said that this was a result of the fact that Ostankino owed a million litai (approx. 250,000 dollars). Programs will only be broadcast from 18:00 local time (19:00 Moscow time).

As the debt question remains unresolved it is unclear how much longer even evening broadcasting will continue.

The remaining time— from 1:00 to 18:00 —may well be leased to the Litpolinter private studio.

As of next week, Niverauskas said, broadcast of the Mayak radio station will be suspended, also because of debt. It is suggested that relay stations now broadcasting Mayak lease their time to private radio companies.

Court Hands Down Sentence in Soviet Activists' Trial

WS2904195294 Tallinn BNS in English 1846 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 29, BNS—The Lithuanian Supreme Court on Friday [29 April] sentenced eight former Soviet activists to varying jail terms for participation in a failed coup attempt in January 1991.

The trial started last December. The eight were first charged with anti-state activities but the accusations were changed to milder ones as the trial proceeded.

The court sentenced Valeri Ivanov, former leader of the pro- Soviet Yedinstvo (Unity) movement, to 3 ½ years in jail. The court said Ivanov helped Soviet troops to guard the Lithuanian radio and TV building that was seized Jan. 13, 1991. On that day, 13 civilians were killed and hundreds more injured defending the TV tower and state institutions from Soviet tanks.

The court failed to come up with evidence proving that the defendants organized assaults on radio and TV buildings.

Ivanov will have to spend only 5 months in jail because the time since his arrest was included in the punishment and the amnesty law was applied. Some of his accomplices, who were sentenced to 3 ½ years in jail, will be imprisoned for less than a month.

Two out of eight former activists were fined 1,500 lits and one was sentenced to 5 ½ years in jail.

Aleksandr Smotkin, who set off two grenades near a Lithuanian border post in November 1991, was sentenced to an eight-year jail term. The state prosecutor said the explosions endangered the lives of four Lithuanian officials, who escaped death only by mere chance. The amnesty law was not applied in Smotkin's case, but the time since his arrest was included in the punishment.

U.S. Firm Wins Contract To Build Oil Terminal

WS0205085894 Tallinn BNS in English 1704 GMT 1 May 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] Director general of the Mazeikiai oil terminal Bronislavas Vainora and Fluor Daniel Williams Brothers company's Vice President Charles Tumey signed a contract April 27 in Vilnius on the basic designing of a new oil terminal in Butinge, at the Baltic Sea.

The U.S.-based company was announced March 31 the winner of an international competition for the terminal project. The also-runs were Italy's Snaprogetti and Argentina's Techint.

Fluor Daniel will design the terminal for import and export of oil products, monitor the construction and help

Lithuanians find financing for the project's implementation. The firm's vice president said on the Lithuanian television that the financing should be found by the customers themselves, i.e., the Mazeikiai enterprise, but his company will help to select the best of the offered deals. The sides have also signed a protocol-memorandum in which the Americans made a commitment to look for construction resources. In the Tumey's words, the project will be drafted in four or five months.

Vainora said his enterprise had money for the preparation of the project but the problem of financing for the construction has not been settled yet. Lithuanians continue talks with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that has pledged financial help.

The preparatory work is already taking place in Butinge while the construction is scheduled to begin in summer.

The capacity of the projected terminal is 12 mln tons of oil per year. The construction will claim one and a half year and will cost, according to various studies, from USD 130 mln to USD 200 mln.